Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE

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Ofsted places school in special measures

PUPILS BLASTED IN DAMNING REPORT

By Jack Averty

A SCHOOL where pupils throw objects during class time and use homophobic slurs has been placed into special measures.

Ofsted rated Staffordshire University Academy, on Marston Road, Hednesford, formerly known as Blake High School and then Blake Valley Technology College, as inadequate in all but one category.

Inspectors described the school's teaching as 'inadequate' and said 'almost no drama or music' was being taught.

The watchdog was also highly critical of the behaviour of some of the school's 600 pupils.

A report prepared after inspectors visited at the end of April said: "Many workbooks have pages torn out, there is graffiti on pages intended for learning and work is missing or incomplete

"Behaviour in some lessons is unacceptable. Pupils were heard using homophobic language; some sat with their feet on desks, others were calling out and ignoring their teachers. In a few lessons, objects were thrown across the room during lessons. Pupils' learning was significantly hampered in these lessons."

Disrupted

On the inadequate level of teaching, inspectors added: "Teaching lacks the challenge necessary for pupils to achieve their potential. In too many lessons, learning is slow or disrupted by poor behaviour. For many pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils, progress is not good.

"Much learning does not engage pupils, so they do not put much effort into their work and make little progress. The lack of breadth in the school's curriculum has not helped pupils' engagement.

"Very few pupils have been able to follow courses in geography, history and languages. Pupils have been required to follow courses that add little value to their future employability."

Ofsted had particularly scathing criticism for leadership, adding: "Leaders are not evaluating the impact of decisions in relation to course choices."

The school was praised, however, for its cultural and careers education, as well as its safeguarding arrangements.

Keith Hollins, the chief executive officer of the academies trust, said: "This is clearly a major disappointment. We are surprised by this judgement given the positive changes made at the Academy in the last two years."

TURNED OUT NICE AGAIN FOR ARMED FORCES DAY

Roger Kelsall, Owen Ellis, Paul Muligani and Frederick Rutter of the Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Male Voice Choir

Paul Casper, George Formby Experience

ARMED Forces Day celebrations in Cannock were hailed 'an incredible success' by organisers as hundreds turned out to enjoy music, exhibitions and more.

The Military Wives Choir, Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Choir and tribute act The George Formby Experience kept crowds entertained at Cannock Park as members of the public mingled with serving and ex military personnel.

Harold Pyke, president of the Staffordshire Regiment Association's Hednesford branch, which organised the event, said: "It is fantastic to see all of the younger people showing an interest.

"It all helps towards increasing the awareness of what we do, people are probably more aware now than they have ever been and it does help you feel like what you have done is appreciated."

Trevor Evans, 71, parade marshal for the Staffordshire Regiment Association's Hednesford branch, said: "We are like a big family and we all show support for each other but right now I think the public are more supportive of us than ever before, so we are really building a great relationship.

"Today is proof of that here in Cannock, I can't believe the turnout we have had, it really is amazing.

"The people of Cannock have done themselves proud today, they have done a brilliant job of showing their appreciation."

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling said: "It is vital that we show our armed forces our appreciation and I think today has been a perfect example of that."

Cannock North councillor Gordon Alcott, who attended the event, said: "I think the organisers should be very proud of themselves, it has been an absolutely fantastic day.

"We have some great people in our town and I think they should be recognised.

"I also think a big thanks should go to the entertainers, they have given up their time to show their appreciation and that is what today is all about."

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CARNIVAL

5,000 enjoy annual village festivities

AROUND 5,000 enjoyed the fun in the sun at Great Wyrley Carnival at the weekend – with more than £625 collected for charity.

The annual event began with a procession around the village, led by the carnival float and 1st Chase Terrace Scouts. The street collection raised £626.34.

South Staffs MP Gavin Williamson was on the judging panel for the floats, best dressed stall and fancy dress and presented trophies to carnival royalty; Queen Kayleigh Patrick, King Joseph Hill, Princess Poppy Wootton and Prince Tyler Griffiths.

There were 50 charity stalls and family entertainment.

ITINERANTS

Travellers ordered to leave open land

TRAVELLERS have moved onto land in Cannock. Around four caravans and a number of other vehicles moved onto the recreational ground between Delta Way and Laburnum Avenue.

On Monday morning Cannock Chase District Council served the travellers with documentation telling them to leave. They were expected to move on the following day.

If not then the council would need to apply to the county court to have them removed from the site.

FUNDING

£5,000 is handed to 'lifeline' bureau

FUNDING of £5,000 has been given to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Hednesford. Councillors hailed its vital work as a lifeline.

The grant was announced by Hednesford Town councillors Derek Davis and Alan Pearson after it was revealed more than £130,000 in benefits had been received by those eligible over the last year, thanks to support from the CAB team.

Councillor Pearson, who sits on Cannock Chase District Council, said: "This is a lifeline for people who can't cope."

Councillor Davis, also a Staffordshire county councillor added: "We are thrilled to support them for another year."

INSIDE:

TRIBUTES AFTER CLIMBER DIES

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Star offers reward for lost medals

The war medals that were lost

ACTOR Hugh Grant has offered a £1,000 reward for the return of a war hero's lost medals.

Charity Blind Veterans UK put out a plea to help find Alfred Barlow's Second World War medals after they were lost at Norton Canes Services on the M6 Toll.

Mr Barlow was returning from a pilgrimage to Normandy, France, where he fought on the beaches more than 70 years ago.

His wife and grandson noticed his four medals – the 1939-1945 Star, the France & Germany Star, the 1939-1945 War Medal and the Palestine Medal – were missing after he visited the toilets on June 8. His grandson retraced their steps, asked at all shops and the designated lost property depot but to no avail.

Mr Barlow, 96, served with 3rd Reconnaissance (Recce) Regiment, 3rd Division, and landed on Sword Beach at 10am on D-Day, June 6 1944.

Film star Grant, who recently visited the service station as part of a tour of Cannock with election candidate Paul Dadge, has offered the reward on Twitter.

A post on his @HackedOffHugh page read: "£1000 reward for their safe return. Contact sara@sarawoodhatch.com. Anonymity guaranteed."

Alfred Barlow, aged 96

Homes plan lodged at former bakery site

A BAKERY which controversially closed without warning leaving workers out of pocket has now been earmarked for demolition to make way for homes.

Tennants Craft Bakery, based in Hednesford, shut suddenly in April last year after the Tennant family sold the company.

Carl, Debbie and Melissa Collins, who took over as owners, were ordered to pay £40,000 after an unemployment tribunal because of their treatment towards staff who claimed they were 'kept in the dark' and unfairly dismissed.

Now Phillip and Jane Tennant, who still own the Wood Lane site despite selling the company, have applied to demolish the bakery and build eight homes. The scheme has been welcomed by some who fear if it is left empty too long it could attract criminals.

A planning application has been submitted to Cannock Chase District Council.

Empty

Councillor Paul Woodhead, who represents south Hednesford, said: "The fact that it could be regenerated rather than left standing empty would be a good thing. The loss of Tennants as a business for the town after years of service is disappointing, it was felt right across the town.

"People had quite fond memories of them. In terms of it now being developed it is something I will speak to residents about but nobody has phoned me to say they don't want eight homes."

Doris Grice, who sits on Hednesford Town Council, said: "I don't think I would object to housing on there providing it is not overcrowded and the site is big enough. I wouldn't want the building to be standing empty too long otherwise it might get vandalised.

"It is a historic site, there are some old buildings around there. Now the bakery is closed I can't see it opening again."

Planning documents reveal the scheme would include seven three-bed homes and one of four-bedrooms. Two homes would face on to Wood Lane with an access road to the rest of them running in between.

Neither the Tennant couple or planning agents J Mason Associates were available for comment.

Wheel chance for female drivers

TV presenter and Le Mans driver Rebecca Jackson, left, and self-employed HGV driver Kara Rouse at Roadchef

IT may be a career that most women wouldn't even consider – but professional racing driver Rebecca Jackson urged girls to get behind the wheel of a HGV at an exciting competition launch in Cannock.

The exclusive campaign was hosted by HerGV to encourage women into the haulage profession by offering the chance to win all expenses paid training and a work placement. At the event held at the M6 Toll services at Norton Canes, TV presenter and Le Mans driver Rebecca said: "Ultimately this is a competition for women and girls to win a HGV licence and M6 Toll are backing it.

"Only one per cent of the female population are HGV drivers so there is a massive population that are not being targeted."

Kara Rouse, a female HGV driver for the past six years, was also at the event with her customised haulage truck. The mother-of-three said: "Before training as a driver I was a nail technician but then for a bet I got behind the wheel of a HGV. There's just a great buzz about being on the road in a big vehicle."

James Hodson, director of motorway operations, said: "There's been some really good interest so far. There is a shortage of drivers in the industry so for more women to get involved would be fantastic."

Women need to upload a short video on www.her-gv.co.uk to say why they would want to become a HGV driver. Those shortlisted will be in with the chance of winning driver training worth up to £3,000 leading to a new career on the road.

Awards will honour the best county has to offer

BUSINESS chiefs across the county have been asked to put themselves forward for awards.

Destination Staffordshire has launched the Enjoy Staffordshire Tourism Awards, with 14 categories for the best attractions, accommodation providers, events and most dog-friendly businesses.

The fifth edition of the awards will give businesses the chance to mirror last year's winners, who included Alton Towers Resort, Drayton Manor Park, Ingestre Lodges near Stafford, and Swinfen Hall Hotel, Lichfield.

Sarah Montgomery, managing director at the National Memorial Arboretum and chairman of Enjoy Staffordshire, said: "We love putting together the awards every year as they give us a chance to showcase the best Staffordshire tourism has to offer, and thank our tourism businesses for providing great experiences for visitors.

"They work incredibly hard and this is our way of celebrating them and recognising their contribution to the growth of the sector in Staffordshire."

Entries should be submitted before September 18. Businesses can enter by completing forms online at enjoystaffordshire.com/enter-awards

Barclays to close town bank branch

BARCLAYS will shut its branch in Penkridge this year – the second bank to pull out of the town in the last 12 months.

The decision, announced this week, means customers face trips to Cannock or Stafford for the nearest branch.

The Crown Bridge outlet will close on October 6. The firm cited declining customers as the reason for the closure.

A spokesman said: "The way customers bank is changing as people increasingly use online, telephone and mobile devices."

"We hope the availability of our other branch at Cannock and access to services at the local Post Office located at Market Street, Penkridge along with our range of digital channels will help to ease the transition for our customers."

The Cannock branch is in Market Place in the town centre and the Stafford branch is in Market Square

Lloyds closed its branch in Penkridge earlier this year.

Garden gates set to open on special day

PLANT sales, cream teas and homemade cakes will be on offer at Colwich and Haywood Open Gardens.

Proceeds from the event, on July 9 from 10am-5pm, will go to Katharine House Hospice

For more details, call Ann Jones on 01889 882634 or Christine Hill on 01889 808194.

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Tower blocks in the county safe, stress fire service

EMERGENCY service bosses have moved to reassure residents that no high rise buildings in Staffordshire have combustible cladding similar to that installed on the tragic Grenfell Tower building.

Representatives from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, local councils, and housing associations, met to discuss county high rises at the Civil Contingency Unit in Stafford on Friday. The meeting was chaired by the fire service's Director of Prevent and Protect Glynn Luznyj and saw each agency provide an update about their work following the June 14 blaze fire in London.

It came as tower blocks elsewhere in the country were evacuated amid concerns the buildings also have the same cladding which saw vicious flames spread up the tower block.

It has been revealed that 600 high rises in the country have a similar type of material. However only 11 of them are believed to be combustible and none are in Staffordshire, it has now been confirmed.

At the multi-agency meeting, several representatives said they would begin the process of having sprinklers installed in high rise buildings or exploring compartmentation system options.

Mr Luznyj said: "We are doing what we can to ensure residents in Staffordshire feel safe in their homes and know what to do in the event of a fire.

"We're extremely pleased that more high rise buildings in Staffordshire are set to have sprinklers installed."

Second outing for children's market

BOSSES at Penkridge hope to repeat the success of their first ever children's market when they stage a second event in October.

The inaugural children's market was staged on April 2 and will be replicated on October 1.

Kate Kingsley, who was behind the event said: "We were absolutely overwhelmed and delighted by the response we had. It was so well received, we're now hoping to build on the success of the event and make it even bigger and better for October."

Market manager Matt Williams said: "We are looking into increasing the amount of entertainment on site."

For more information call 01785 714221 or log onto www.penkridge-market.co.uk

Collectors head to antiques fair

AN antiques and collectors market takes place every month in Pinfold Lane, Penkridge.

The next one will be held on Thursday, July 6, between 9am and 3pm. Admission and parking are free.

Inspectors fly to woodpecker's rescue

The bird became caught in fishing line

A WOODPECKER became caught in fishing line moments before he was rescued by the RSPCA.

The bird had a barbed hook in his wing, while fishing line was wrapped around him and a tree, as he swung 'like a pendulum' above the water.

The great spotted woodpecker was caught over the canal in Gravelly Way, near Four Ashes.

RSPCA inspector Kate Parke said: "He was clearly struggling and panicking in a bid to free himself – he was swinging like a pendulum.

"I was able to safely free him and I took him to a local wildlife centre so he could be observed, as we don't know how long he was stuck for.

"It could have been so much worse for him – in the past we have had birds who have been strangled to death because of fishing lines, or choked on discarded fishing hooks.

"It is very frustrating as this could have been so easily avoided if someone had disposed of their fishing line correctly in the first place.

"Most anglers make the effort to retrieve and take home all their fishing line and tackle but some are not so careful, which results in incidents like this. We urge people to think twice and please dispose of their rubbish correctly, as hooks and lines can cause horrific injuries to wildlife.

"With a little more thought and care, an animal could be spared suffering." Officers from the charity last year rescued 697 animals from discarded fishing lines and other angling litter, such as hooks and barbs.

The woodpecker was taken to Cuan Wildlife Centre, in Shropshire, where staff helped him back to health ahead of being released into the wild.

Stalker admits causing his ex to take own life

A STALKER who drove his former partner to commit suicide has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in what is believed to be a legal first.

Nicholas Allen, from Rugeley, pleaded guilty to manslaughter, engaging in coercive or controlling behaviour and stalking at Stafford Crown Court and will be sentenced next month in relation to the death of Justene Reece.

Allen, 47, a former soldier and mechanic, began a relationship with Ms Reece, a shop assistant, in 2015 after they met at a scooter enthusiasts' event, according to national newspaper reports.

She later left her husband to be with Allen, it is claimed. The relationship soured and Ms Reece, who was living with Allen in Stafford, fled to a Women's Aid refuge in the North East of England, according to the reports.

Allen was said to have bombarded her with calls, texts and threats and even turned up at her estranged husband's home.

Despite being served with a non-molestation order he continued to harass her, it is reported. On February 22, Ms Reece took her own life.

She reportedly left a diary chronicling her struggles in relation to Allen's actions.

Allen will be sentenced at Stafford Crown Court on July 28.

Hanna Sidaway, senior crown prosecutor for the CPS, said: "The CPS ordered a specialist report and sought the views of a senior barrister with expertise in this area of law.

"It was clear Allen's behaviour caused Justene significant psychiatric harm and directly contributed to her death. We therefore charged him with manslaughter."

A police spokesman said: "Staffordshire Police has been investigating the circumstances leading to Justene's sad and tragic death.

"This led to Nicholas Allen being charged with engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour and six counts of stalking involving serious alarm and distress. "In May the CPS took the decision to additionally charge Nicholas Allen with manslaughter of Justene Reece.

"On the 2 June Nicholas Allen appeared before Stafford Crown Court where he pleaded guilty to all offences and the case was subsequently adjourned for sentencing on 28 July.

"As this case remains under the jurisdiction of the court we do not wish to make any further comment which would adversely affect justice being served for Justene and her family."

The matter has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission."

Mick Szydlowski, who died while climbing in the Lake District

Bus driver dies on hill climb fundraiser

A DEDICATED anti-war activist has died in the Lake District whilst trying to raise money for Palestine.

Mick Szydlowski, a popular bus driver from Rochester Way, Heath Hayes, was walking towards the 3,000ft summit of Helvellyn – England's third highest mountain – on Saturday morning when he fell ill from a suspected heart attack.

The 60-year-old father-of-two was airlifted to hospital but later died.

An avid pro-Palestine campaigner, who also worked for Arriva, Mick was trying to generate funds for the Working with Villages in Palestine project during the climb.

His son Philip said: "He put the plight of others less fortunate than himself before anything else. The general consensus was that his heart was too big. It is very hard for us at the moment. It was very sudden and came as a shock to us."

Lisa Dundas, who runs the villages project and was with him in the Lake District added: "He was the most generous hearted, kindest man I have ever met."

Born in Wolverhampton, Mick had lived in Cannock Chase for around 40 years. He will be fondly remembered by many, especially those who caught the 825 Stafford to Lichfield service. At Christmas he delivered presents to people.

A fundraising page has been set up in his memory at www.gofundme.com/helvellan-via-striding-edge

NEWS IN BRIEF

County town top of the shops list

CANNOCK is second behind Stafford in Staffordshire and the Black Country when it comes to supermarkets and discount stores.

The county town had the lowest population per food store – 8,420 – compared with neighbouring places in 2016, according to analysis from the Local Data Company (LDC).

Cannock was the second-most catered for with 15,959 people per store.

Figures for Rugeley were 30,931 and Wolverhampton 24,384. The LDC did not have data for Hednesford and Walsall.

Fun for all the family at fair

AN inflatable obstacle course, helter skelter and bake-off contest are all highlights of a school's summer fair.

Five Ways Primary, in Langholm Drive, Heath Hayes, will be staging the fair on July 9 from 2 to 5pm.

There will be a tombola, face painting, photo booth and more. Cakes entered into the bake-off challenge will be sold off after the judging.

Admission is £1 for adults, 50p for pensioners and free for children. Parent, Teachers and Friends Association chairman Neil Dalby said: "There will be plenty of fun for all the family."

Show tells story of actress debut

FANNY: A New Musichall will be stage at the Lichfield Garrick today (Thursday) and tomorrow at 7.45pm.

It tells the story of a young actress rehearsing for her Drury Lane debut in the Victorian period. As she works on her songs with Arthur, her long-suffering pianist, it is apparent that things are not all as they seem.

Lichfield-based actress Lizzie Wofford is in the lead role. The show is produced by Lichfield actor Tom Roberts and London Theatre Workshop.

Cold War theme for model aircraft rally

A MODEL aircraft rally returns to the Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford on July 15 and 16.

Billed as an air show in miniature, it is set to attract thousands of aviation and modelling enthusiasts. The event will have a Cold War flying theme with model aircraft including a 20ft Vulcan bomber taking to the skies.

Advance tickets are on sale at the RAF Museum Cosford, priced at £8 per adult. Tickets purchased on the gate cost £10 per adult.

Cider galore at pubs

THE Linford Arms in High Green, Cannock, and Hedgeford Lodge in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, will be holding a cider festival from July 7 until July 23. The pubs, part of the JD Wetherspoon chain, will each offer up to 18 ciders including some produced exclusively for the festival.

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COUNTY NEWS

Leap at chance to help salmon

PEOPLE are being invited to get involved in a new project to encourage salmon to return to a Black Country river. The Salmon in the Stour project involves the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

A free workshop takes place tonight, Thursday, at Himley Hall from 2pm to gather information about the River Stour. It is hoped the research will help to establish who uses the river, for what purpose and in what ways use can be improved.

£47,000 raised at Joel charity game

MORE than £47,000 was raised through a celebrity charity football match in memory of a family killed in a Tunisia terror attack.

The star-studded Smile for Joel contest at Walsall's Banks's Stadium last month saw a host of high-profile names take to the pitch. The Smile for Joel charity, which helps families of people killed in homicides, was set up in memory of Joel Richards, who was killed in Sousse in 2015.

A total of £47,226 was raised from the match which will be donated to the cause jointly with Compton Hospice.

Safety advice on picnic food

CRUCIAL safety advice has been issued as a guide to picnickers in the West Midlands. The Safe Summer Food guide addresses relevant concerns and gives top tips on food safety.

More than 1.8 million people in the West Midlands plan to get out into the great outdoors for a picnic this summer according to the Food Standards Agency, but in a survey, a quarter of people are concerned about picnic food hygiene. Go to www.food.gov.uk/picnics for more information.

Urgent plea to get more black donors

HEALTH officials have launched an urgent plea for more black people to volunteer to give blood. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said 40,000 more black donors are needed to meet growing demand for a subtype of blood more common in black people.

Between 2014 and 2016 there was a 75 per cent increase in the amount of Ro blood issued to hospitals in England. A high proportion of this blood is used to treat sickle cell disease. The online campaign is called #ImThere.

Pub holds festival

A FOUR-DAY cider and cheese festival is being held in a Wolverhampton city centre pub.

The event at the Lych Gate Tavern in Queen Square is running from July 6 to 9. The Black Country Ales pub has added sausages and classic wines as well this year.

Minute's silence for volunteer Carol

Carol Fittes

MEMBERS of Hednesford Town Council paid tribute to businesswoman and community volunteer Carol Fittes, who died after a short cancer battle.

Council chairman Alan Pearson asked colleagues to join him in a minute's silence at last week's council meeting.

He said the gesture should honour Carol, who died aged 45, alongside the victims of the tragedies in London and Manchester.

He asked for it to be put on record that Hednesford Town Council was grateful to Carol for her work supporting publicity and its website, and also for all her backing of her community with Hednesford in Partnership and the Heart of Hednesford.

Councillor Pearson said Carol's death was a tragic loss to all those who knew her. "She was a lovely woman and her loss will hit very hard," he said.

Mother-of-two Carol was chair of Hednesford in Partnership and a former secretary of Heart of Hednesford.

The community group said in a statement this week: "Carol was so passionate about her home town, and it was only with her words of encouragement and kindness that prevented Heart of Hednesford from folding in leaner times before she moved on to be the initial driving force, that ensured the success of Hednesford in Partnership."

Carol died in Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice on Sunday, May 21.

Story of war years as servicemen celebrated

VISITORS were propelled back in time more than 100 years to see the key role Cannock Chase played during the First World War.

Demonstrators from around the country attended a commemorative event to help tell the story of the Chase's history during the Great War years.

The area was transformed into a huge training camp for soldiers and more than half a million passed through en route to the Western Front including a Messines Ridge replica.

Staffordshire County Council, The Cannock Chase Area of Natural Beauty Unit and partners hosted an event at the Marquis Drive Visitor Centre over the weekend to tell people about the Chase Through Time heritage project and commemorate the role of the training camps during the First World War. Historic England showcased some of its survey results completed with the help of volunteers from the surrounding area.

Unique

Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities at Staffordshire County Council said: "The event was a great success and gave people a unique chance to learn more about this important landscape and its history which we are incredibly lucky and proud to have."

It came after hundreds turned out to celebrate Armed Forces Day across Cannock. The occasion was hailed as 'an incredible success' by organisers.

Crowds were entertained by The Military Wives Choir, Cannock Ex-Servicemen Choir and tribute act The George Formby Experience.

Hordes also came together to learn more about what the Armed Forces do and to offer up thanks for their work.

Harold Pyke, president of the Staffordshire Regiment Association's Hednesford branch, which organised the event, said: "The crowds came out and everyone has had a great time."

Trevor Evans, 71, parade marshal for the Staffordshire Regiment Association's Hednesford branch, said Armed Forces Day helped the public to build up a relationship with servicemen and women.

Politicians also showed their support, including MP Amanda Milling. She said: "I am proud of Cannock for how the people have embraced this celebration."

Robert Palfrey, Rhion-Jordan Baker and Richard Cartwright from Birmingham Pals at the War years project

Harold Pyke, Amanda Milling and Stan Nixon

Sharon Jagger of the RBL Riders at Armed Forces Day

Disruption on track as rail line to shut for 16 days

RAIL users have been warned the Chase Line between Rugeley Trent Valley and Walsall will be closed for 16 days in August as work continues to electrify the line.

As part of a £100m-plus upgrade, the line will be closed from August 13 to 28. Users are being urged to check before they travel. From August 13 to 21 August buses will replace trains between Tame Bridge Parkway, Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley to an amended timetable, while from August 22 to 28, buses will be put on between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley to an amended timetable.

The closure has been carefully planned with London Midland. Work which will take place includes replacing and realigning the track at various locations between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley; platform work at Cannock, Landywood and Bloxwich stations and the temporary closure of Bloxwich level crossing.

Martin Tiller, Network Rail's project sponsor said: "Unfortunately these upgrades cannot be done while trains are running so we have to close the line between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley for 16 days in August. The work has been carefully planned with London Midland to get the maximum amount completed whilst causing the least disruption."

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling said: "Passengers will be very concerned about the disruption on the Chase Line in the coming weeks but they will enjoy a much better service once the electrification is complete."

Minibus attacked but cadets defiant

A SEA CADETS group showed their determination to get back on the road after their minibus was vandalised.

The vehicle, belonging to Stafford and Rugeley Sea Cadets, was damaged while the cadets' band was practising on Monday evening last week.

It is believed to have been targeted by youths on bikes.

The Sea Cadets said on Facebook: "Whilst the band were practising, a couple of lads on push bikes decided to put a rock through the window of the minibus."

The group later added: "The insurance will cover the cost of replacing the window, minus a small excess, so hopefully it'll be back out and about."

Anyone with any information about the incident is asked to contact the police by calling 101.

Town venue to stage a black tie summer ball

THE Premier Suite in Cannock is to stage a Masquerade Black Tie Summer Ball on Saturday, July 15.

There will be a champagne and canapés reception, a five-course meal and live entertainment. Call 01543 572092 or email info@premier-suite.co.uk

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Have summer night out at drive-in movie show

COUNCIL chiefs want film fans people to book tickets and don leather jackets to watch a drive-in movie this summer.

Lichfield District Council will screen Grease at Beacon Park on August 12. The popular musical will be shown on a giant inflatable screen as movie-lovers watch from the comfort of their cars.

Drivers can tune their radios into the movie soundtrack frequency to hear the film and all its classic songs, including Summer Nights, You're the One that I Want and Greased Lightnin'.

Grease is the word

There will also be a reserved area in front of the cars for on-foot ticket holders to bring along chairs and enjoy the film, starring Olivia Newton-John and a leather-clad John Travolta, in the open air.

Gates will open at 7pm, and the film will start at 9pm.

Admission is by ticket only which needs to be pre-booked.

It costs £20 per car with a maximum of four people (£5 extra a head), and £5 to attend on foot which includes headset hire, plus a £15 refundable deposit for each headset, payable on the night.

Tickets are available to buy at the Beacon Park's Ranger Station, over the phone on 01543 308867 or at lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk/drivein

Emergency staff free at theme park

DRAYTON Manor has offered emergency workers who went to the aid of a girl who fell from a ride free admission for the rest of the year.

Evha Jannath, aged 11, from Leicester, died after falling from the Splash Canyon ride on May 9 during a school trip.

The park said it wanted to acknowledge the commitment the emergency services made. William Bryan, managing director at the family-run theme park said: "They are heroes in every sense of the word and we all owe them our gratitude.

"We're delighted to be able to show our appreciation to our invaluable emergency services by welcoming them here to the park for a well-deserved day out with their families."

Fundraising quiz for cricket club

A FUNDRAISING quiz towards a new pavilion at Cannock Cricket Club takes place on Saturday.

It starts at 8.30am in Church Lane, Hatherton, with food from 8pm. Entry fee is £4 each for a team of four.

Award in honour of late musician

Deborah, Coco, and Oliver

A TEENAGER has won a special music award named in honour of the former drummer of indie rock group the Charlatans.

Music Technology students at Shrewsbury College were rewarded for their efforts at their annual awards ceremony last week and Oliver Davies, of Bridgnorth, scooped the main accolade, named after the late Jon Brookes, who hailed from Burntwood.

The Jon Brookes Award for Endeavour was established after the drummer became affiliated with the college when he helped to launch its Roland Academy for Music in 2009. Over the years he held student workshops focused on both drumming and working in the music industry as a whole, which included impressive personal demonstrations and giving students the chance to play alongside him to famous tracks by his band.

In late 2013, Jon died from a brain tumour – but his legacy through the college lives on.

Deborah Hill-Brookes, Jon's widow presented the award in honour of her late husband with the help from one of their three children, Coco.

Oliver, aged 17, who is in his first year of studying level 3 music technology, said: "I'm very happy, I couldn't believe it, I was speechless – to win this award is a real honour."

Oliver, who came to the college from Oldbury Wells School in Bridgnorth, is planning to pursue a career as a professional musician.

Deborah Hill-Brookes said: "I'm so glad the college has seen fit to carry on this award in Jon's name. Jon would have been elated to see everyone here at this event, recognising the students in this way for their hard work."

Charlatans' Jon Brookes

Plans for new primary school delayed again

PLANS for new primary school in Hednesford are being left in limbo due to a row over parking.

Staffordshire County Council, which is behind the scheme for the 210-place school and nursery in Pye Green Road, had hoped the plans would be approved in May but they were put off until a meeting last Wednesday – and postponed again.

The sticking point has been concerns over a lack of parking for parents.

Cannock Chase councillors want the county council to include parking for parents picking up and dropping off their children but the authority argues there is no room and it is not its policy.

The county council also says there is no need for the extra parking, given that the school is being built to accommodate children from a new housing estate within walking distance.

Parking will be provided for staff and teachers.

Worried

Councillor Alan Dudson, who sits on Cannock Chase Council's planning committee, said: "The plans were deferred again on Wednesday because a planning officer was not able to attend and we needed him there to find out why there cannot be any parking for parents.

"I am not the only councillor with concerns over it, a few are worried about the parking."

Hednesford Town Council has not objected to the plans but did say it is 'extremely concerned' about the parking issue.

Previously, George Adamson, the leader of Cannock Chase Council, said the 'only concern' he had about the school was the parking, adding: "We need the new school with the houses that are being built but we need to make sure the children get there safe."

The school has been hailed as much needed in the past, to help provide school places for a major 142-acre housing development on nearby land.

St Modwen, the developer behind the scheme, is looking to build around 700 homes in the area, which led has led to the need for the school.

The school had been earmarked for opening in September 2019 and it is thought that so far this date has not been altered despite the hold-up.

No-one at Staffordshire County Council was available to comment.

Gas stamps no longer fit the bill

Norman Arthur-Price has been told his British Gas stamps cannot be used to take money off his bill

THEY are a reminder of the days before online banking, internet saving schemes and electronic meters – stamps purchased from the Post Office and stuck to a booklet, to help pay off a utility bill.

The British Gas scheme in its heyday in the mid-1980s had hundreds of thousands of people enlisted, including Norman Arthur-Price, who came across his stamps that were kept in a safe box for almost two decades. Mr Arthur-Price, of Albert Street, Cannock, bought the stamps on his monthly visit to the post office.

He said they were useful for paying off the bills, but has since found out the scheme was dissolved in 2003.

"I'd kept the stamps in a safe box, and on finding them again more than 15 years on, I tried to get them honoured," he said.

"I contacted British Gas but was told they could not refund them. I then went to the Ombudsman, and he also said no. I understand there was a time given to cash in the stamps, but it'd have been nice if I could still do it now."

Around £120 million worth of stamps were sold in 1997 but a growing number of people were by then switching to other methods. Five years later, fewer than 100,000 of British Gas's 13 million customers bought stamps. They had until 2009 to redeem them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyclist injured in group ride crash

A CYCLIST was airlifted to hospital with serious head injuries after an accident near Rugeley while he was riding in a large group.

The rider, who was in his 30s, was in a peloton of about 50 others travelling at an estimated 25mph when his bike collided with another machine.

It was reported he went over his handlebars and landed on his head.

The injured man, who was wearing a helmet, was flown to Royal Stoke University Hospital. The accident happened on the Kings Bromley to Alrewas road at 6.20pm last Tuesday.

Alton Towers ride is forced to stop

THRILL-SEEKERS were left stuck after Alton Towers' popular Galactica ride was forced to stop.

The ride came to a stop mid-way through a run last Wednesday due to a 'minor technical issue'.

A spokeswoman for Alton Towers said: "The computer systems on our Galactica ride detected a minor technical issue which caused the ride to stop. The ride was operating as it was designed to do. We followed our well-rehearsed procedures in order to get the ride back into the station as quickly and safely as possible."

£1,060 raised at pamper evening

A LICHFIELD Ladies Pamper Evening raised £1,060 for the equine welfare charity Brooke – Action for Working Horses and Donkeys.

Guests were invited for an evening of pampering and indulgence, including jewellery sales, beauty treatments and 'butlers in the buff'

The event, which was organised by Brooke's local fundraising champion group, attracted more than 70 guests.

The money raised will help the charity's vital work all over the world.

School's cakes and cookies boost fund

STAFF and students at Wolgarston High School in Penkridge raised £154.71 by taking part in The Great Get Together.

Cakes and cookies were sold during breaks and lunchtime to generate cash for the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund to support those affected by the terrorist attack in that city.

The Great Get Together was set up by the Jo Cox Foundation in honour of the MP who died after being shot and stabbed by a far-right extremist.

Ramblers at the Ring

CHASE Ramblers will be going on an eight to nine-mile easy walk from Bury Ring, Stafford, this Sunday, meeting as usual at Hednesford railway station car park, in Anglesey Street, Hednesford for a 9am prompt departure. For details call Ian on 01785 211400. New walkers welcome.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Bangin' as grime now leading the way

WITH all the talk about austerity and economic gloom, you might be interested to hear that there is one sector of the UK economy which appears to be doing very nicely, thank you very much. A nice little earner, with the potential to crack export markets right around the world.

According to the Official Charts Company, grime artists have seen their sales double over the past year, with the likes of Stormzy and Skepta leading the way. So it wasn't just me who was buying this stuff, then?

NOW you might think that that grime artists are painters with poor personal hygiene, but apparently not. According to worldwide web, grime is a type of music typified by rapid, syncopated breakbeats, generally 130 or 140 beats per minute, and which originated in East London. Which sounds a bit like Chas and Dave with drums. Bangin' man.

❒❒❒

A MOTORIST claims to have had a chat with some aliens after their spaceship tailed her car in a remote, rural part of the United States.

She says the flaming spacecraft followed her car before stopping in front of her and asked her for directions to the e-cigarette stall on Willenhall Market. Actually I might have embellished the last bit, but you get the general drift. The lady claims to have told them: "I know that you can hear me because you all are a lot more intelligent and advanced than we are."

Which is probably true. But then again, the same could be said of people from the Black Country. But anyway, all this happened 40 years ago, and for some reason she has only just got round to telling the authorities.

Maybe it is because attitudes have changed, and she wasn't sure what kind of response she would have got had she gone to the police at the time. Although the words: "Would you mind blowing into this bag, madam", springs to mind.

❒❒❒

MAYBE in the scheme of things, Tim Farron quitting as leader of the Liberal Democrats will probably not be causing you too many sleepless nights. No doubt, there are many people around who never knew who he was in the first place.

Nevertheless, we should all be very concerned when a party leader feels obliged to quit his post because his Christian faith is considered out of step with today's climate of political correctness.

It's the same with some of the comments about Democratic Unionists in Northern Ireland, who have been branded the "Dinosaur Party" because of their adherence to Christian values.

Isn't it incredible how the people who make the most noise about tolerance and diversity can never extend their liberal credentials towards Christianity?

As Sir Billy celebrates, Davis waits and Tim goes

Does David Davis measure up? Well, there are striking similarities to a particular columnist...

Arise Sir Billy – knighthood for the ex-pat comic, while the last surviving Dambuster gets an MBE

Farewell Farron – the unjust victim of bigots who claim to cherish diversity?

Big Yin's win puts a smile on some faces

REMEMBER that nice young man who sold you the double glazing and told you the super-efficient door would keep the coldest weather at bay? Do you recall him mentioning that in a heatwave the same door would warp, buckle and jam? No, me neither.

AFTER Michael Mosley's healthy-eating programme Trust Me – I'm a Doctor (BBC2) and a flurry of follow-up features in the glossy mags, a reader complains: "You can't get a white cabbage for love nor money." In all my years in journalism this is the first time I've witnessed a sauerkraut frenzy.

RESPECT to the Muslim men who fought back when a van crashed into a crowd near Finsbury Park Mosque. They had no idea whether their attacker was armed or whether the vehicle was a bomb. They just grabbed him, thumped him, detained him until the cops arrived and heeded their imam's pleas not to injure him. As I pointed out some days ago, terrorists are not superhuman. Facing a cohesive and determined group, they can be defeated. The official police advice to run, hide and report is sometimes no substitute for grab, wallop and pin down. Well done, all.

DAVID Davis, widely tipped this week as a possible successor to Theresa May, appears to have stolen my CV. Davis is a slightly overweight, sixtysomething, Yorkshire-born, grammar-school educated husband, Eurosceptic and former Territorial Army officer. What's not to like?

SOME voices stay with you all your life. My generation will never forget Oliver Postgate narrating the saga of Noggin the Nog, or Shirley Abicair singing about the Little Boy Fishing. For a later generation, the voice of the Play School and Play Away presenter Brian Cant will endure.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

Cant's death was announced this week. He was 83 and I bet, even now, you can hear his soft, beautifully modulated voice as he introduced Trumpton's firemen: "Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble, Grub."

SHIRLEY Abicair? Still alive and well and living in Melbourne, aged 86.

WHEN he urged the homeless of Grenfell Tower to occupy empty properties in Kensington, Jeremy Corbyn must have known he was encouraging them to break the law. If the bewildered, shellshocked survivors of the inferno actually followed his advice they could end up in the sort of accommodation that has bars on the windows.

AS the first proper survey reveals the impact of the youth vote on the General Election, the message for any future Conservative government is plain: 1) Under no circumstances hold an election during university term time. 2) If 1) is impossible then immediately raise the voting age to 60.

AND off to the dentist to re-arrange an appointment. In Reception, a huge muscular bloke with a big beard was being quietly assured by the receptionist that all their dentists are very understanding about nervous patients. "They don't come any more nervous than me," I offered cheerfully, hoping to reassure him. But he would not even make eye-contact. It is a reminder that for some people, dread of the dentist is not merely a fear but a full-blown phobia. Given the link between tooth decay and heart disease, it can be a lethal phobia. I cannot remember a time when painless dentistry and drill-free fillings were not promised to be just around the corner. Still waiting. . . .

SO 95-year old George "Johnny" Johnson, the last surviving Dambuster, gets a measly MBE in the Honours list while 'Big Yin' Billy Connolly, a comedian who doesn't even live in this country, gets a knighthood. Makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?

AND why did poor old Olivia de Havilland have to wait until she was 100 – seven decades after her greatest films - to become a dame? The only people who should be forced to wait that long for honours are sporting "heroes" with dodgy urine samples.

TIM Farron stands down as Lib-Dem leader because his Christian views have become easy meat for his political enemies. The people I despise most in politics are those who claim to cherish diversity in all things when the truth is that they cannot tolerate diversity of opinion. If you don't share their mind-set you're worthless. They are the worst sort of bigots.

GOT home to find my chronically unreliable BT broadband not working. The bloke on the BT helpline wanted to know which malfunction lights were flashing. Tricky. Like millions of males, I am colour-blind. The lights on a BT hub are red, green and orange. But the red is a sort of orangey red, the orange is reddishly orange and the green is somewhere between red and orange and strikes me as a bit yellowish. The lad at BT gave me the usual guff about putting the customer first but rather spoiled it by adding that if the fault's on my side of the hub it'll cost me £100.

TALKING POINT

Seeing red as gingers join range of emojis

ONCE upon a time there was just Rita Fairclough. Jenny Matthews came, went and returned, while Les Battersby also rocked up on the cobbles.

He brought with him Cilla Brown and soon followed Chesney and Fizz.

Now we have Gary Windass and Craig Tinker, which does seem a high concentration in a street with around 13 houses.

Maybe should rename the soap opera Gingernation Street in tribute to the number of redheads currently residing in Weatherfield.

But, don't think this is a dig at the carrot-topped population. Far from it. It's actually a celebration of them, particularly as smart phone makers have finally come into the 21st century and recognised their existence.

Some of the biggest names in music over the decades are a certain shade of red, Cilla Black, Geri Halliwell, Ed Sheeran. Sporting superstar Steve Davis and even the fifth in line to the throne join them in a list of ginger greats. And let's not forget Emma Stone is an Oscar-winning actress.

They may make up less than two per cent of the world's population, but, like all minorities, it's still important they are represented in society. To that end, smart phone makers have finally decided to introduce ginger emojis.

Actually in Wales, Ireland and Scotland, a tenth of people sport red hair, and it was in the latter where an online petition was spearheaded, gathering 20,000 signatures.

The campaign document read: "Redheads. In all their glorious gingerness, they've been missed out. Again. If you say you're going to diversify why not add a few red-haired emoji in the mix."

It acknowledged that while natural redheads may be rare, with such a small percentage of the word's inhabitants, that was still 138 million iphones waiting to happen. The persistent campaigning on social media has now reaped its rewards. For, while emojis have evolved in recent years, there was still no redhead option, until now. Jeremy Burge, founder of emoji website Emojipedia – yes there is such a thing – has come to realise there is a gap in the market. He said: "The lack of a redhead emoji has been the most frequent complaint from users."

And, while they may be out painting the town red at the news, the bald truth is just as good for the follically-challenged too.

Mr Burge admitted that bald, curly and the white-haired could join them, too and these could all be rolled out by 2018.

In a day and age of multi-culturalism and diversity, I think it's a great idea that technology should be embraced and that minorities are being considered – not just as an afterthought. A grandmother from Coventry has even designed emojis that reflect old age, with false teeth and bad backs. Gets a thumbs up smiley from me!

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Skeletons uncovered in church dig

Archaeologist Garreth Davey at work on one of the discovered skeletons in the trench

Rev Greg Yerbury and Helen Martin-Bacon next to the old entrance

The skeletons are 'older than living memory'

ARCHAEOLOGISTS hoping to find traces of a Saxon church in Penkridge have instead uncovered skeletons hundreds of years old.

A professional team were called out to St Michael and All Angels Church ahead of a new annex being built on the site.

Staffordshire-based Commercial Archaeology carried out a a geophysical survey of the northern section of the churchyard, before digging out two 4ft-deep test trenches – where they uncovered the skeletons.

They are believed to date back to the late 1800s when the church underwent a renovation. It is believed bodies were moved from the church into the nearby grounds. Helen Martin-Bacon, director of Commercial Archaeology, said: "What we've found is a series of burials – they're all aligned east to west, so they're Christian burials.

"There's a lot of disarticulated bone, and we think they are here because in 1880 they lowered the floor of the church by three foot and, we think, moved a lot of burials from inside the church out here.

"That may not be the case, but it seems the most likely.

"There's nothing here to identify them, but they are definitely older than living memory, and there are no church records.

Around 16 skeletons were uncovered in the two trenches, and the archaeologists expect there would be many more if they dug deeper or in any nearby areas.

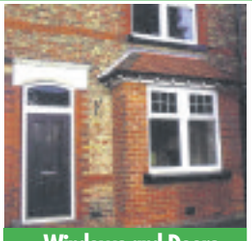
The church commissioned the survey after plans were put forward for a new hall, connecting to the church.

It was hoped the dig would shed some light on the church's royal connections.

Rev Greg Yerbury said: "When the Mercians beat the Saxons, they celebrated at a nearby church – possibly here on this site. For reasons that remain all mysterious, this land certainly housed a royal chapel from 950-ish all the way through 1840.

"No-one knows why a church in the middle of nowhere would be a royal chapel. It was a large authoritative place for unknown reasons."

Conservatory Tiled Roof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No need to leave note this time

RE: 'Colourful and fully costed manifesto' by Mr Witton (June 22), stating my accusation against Labour was wholly unjustified.

On Brexit, Labour's manifesto states to scrap the white paper on Europe and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities with a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union. Then if you look at the areas Labour gained seats they were in the wealthier metropolitan areas and university towns. They are both pro-Europe.

Labour's policies on tuition fees, the cold weather payments and the triple lock on pensions were universal.

I couldn't understand that a Socialist government with core principles and scathing about poverty would have maintained a four-year benefits freeze. At least they don't have to leave a note this time. It will be self-evident when quantitative easing is reintroduced.

MR A ALLPORT
Huntington

Flood defence scheme is an absolute fright

I LOOKED through the fence at Rugeley's ongoing flood defence work.

I was frightened.

I envisaged a bit of an embankment and a drainage ditch with stones and gravel.

Never dreamed there would be pile drivers, earth movers, rollers, excavators, consultants, crayfish specialists.

Never thought there would be thousands of tonnes of earth moved and wagon loads of clay bought in.

The embankment's huge. What could be coming down that valley? I'm making no more pallet plant boxes for the wife. I'm working on something much bigger.

They scoffed at Noah, but he was proved right in the end.

K GEE
Rugeley

Politicians capable of creating chaos

WANT chaos? Leave it to the political establishment. How do you begin to make sense of the situation this country now faces? Pundits will continue to analyse election detail and crunch numbers, but will their assessments really tell the true story?

The Prime Minister's official reason for calling an election, after previously dismissing the idea as a non-starter, was to try and get a substantial working majority that would give her more power when dealing with Brexit negotiations. So why did the Conservative manifesto include divisive measures aimed at the one group that traditionally votes in numbers – pensioners?

Their proposals for social care, winter fuel allowance and the triple-lock were never going to generate support.

Labour took its opportunity with both hands, led by Jeremy Corbyn – a man vilified by many since being elected through the party system twice, but was supposedly totally unsuitable to be a prime minister. MPs within the party did not want to be part of his shadow cabinet.

Personally I don't like politics (I have no affiliation to or support either of the two parties) but I understand why we have it – our choice is narrow, and there is no ready-made credible alternative.

LES COOPER
Cannock

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EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Voters could return

IT would appear from the likes of Major, Cameron, etc that they are making one last push for a soft Brexit (which means little change from now). I hope Nigel Farage keeps his eyes on this situation. I am sure the UKIP-ers who moved to other parties in the General Election would return and, given UKIP its 10 per cent-plus vote share again, split the Tories as badly as Labour are split.

T TURNER
Rugeley

Industry has been decimated

SO, yet another General Election may loom in the none too distant future.

We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Tory ideology turns this reality on its head with its invocation of the Magic Money Tree to mock Jeremy Corbyn's ideas for the funding of vital public services and industries.

The actual reality is, in order to fund tax breaks for the super-rich, reduce corporation tax and wage endless wars in the Middle East, the public sector and the industrial base of this country has been ruthlessly decimated.

This has resulted in a disproportionate concentration of wealth and power into the hands of a few – ultimately with devastating consequences for the planet.

The Magic Money Tree would merely redistribute this wealth and give power back to the true wealth providers: the people.

HAYDN GREENWAY
Cannock

Scout group staff need your support

THE 1st Rugeley Scout Group is one of the oldest in the UK and, due to rising numbers of Beaver and Cub Scouts, requires an extra number of leaders.

Also the Scout troop needs instructors and parents to help support the current staff at the HQ, which is also due to have a facelift over the coming months. Many houses have been built in Rugeley over the last 15 years and we believe there may be a number of people with Scouting experience who have moved into the town.

If anyone is interested in helping our group, would you please come along to 1st Rugeley``s HQ in Keystone Lane where you will be made very welcome and can discuss your interests. We meet every Monday and Friday evenings, and Tuesday mornings. Please help if you can.

VINCE KANE
Group chairman

To all the lazy ones: Pick up, or don't have a dog

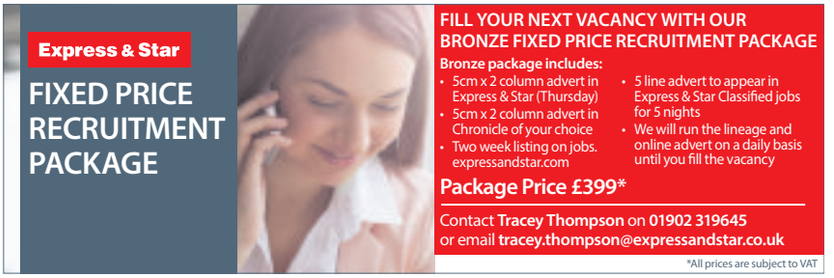
I HAVE had dogs for over 27 years and have always walked them over Hednesford Hills.

Sometimes I have walked my cavalier in the dark around Sharon Way. I have always carried doggy bags and picked my dogs' poop up.

So why is it, when I go around Sharon Way and past St Peter's School, there is always poop on the paths? Most of us pick it up.

It is the few that don't who give us dog owners a bad name. So, come on you lazy people, you know who you are. Pick up, or don't have a dog.

TERESA
Hednesford



Guest keeps Tabs on TV crime shows

Hammerwich WI

AFTER an enthusiastic singing of Jerusalem, Sue Owens was welcomed as the new club president. Sue has been a member for several years, her previous role was honorary secretary.

She is also a keen member of the club's 'Ta Rowdles' choir. Sue has loads of enthusiasm and has many new ideas to encourage old and new members alike, to partake in various activities, trips, competitions and fundraisers.

April's speaker was Paul Tabs, an ex-detective. He gave an entertaining and eye-opening experience exploring the fascinating world of forensic science and crime scene investigation. He is now an adviser for TV crime programmes such as Silent Witness. He said that such programmes gave the wrong impression to viewers of how proceedings were carried out. In fact the correct procedures aren't shown at all!

Paul is good speaker and very funny and certainly knew how to keep a hall full of WI ladies entertained.

A 'Special Lady' was also warmly welcomed to the meeting. Kim Frankham, retired post mistress of Hammerwich Post Office. Sue presented Kim with a Debenhams voucher to thank her for all the support and help she has given to the WI over several years.

The next monthly meeting is the club's 97th birthday party. Ladies will meet at Aston Wood Golf Club for a birthday meal – an evening of celebration with friends.

Fundraising pride as defibrillator installed

The official handover of the defibrillator at Etching Hill village hall

Etching Hill WI

IN 2016 Etching Hill Woman's Institute celebrated its 70th birthday, and the previous year the WI in the UK marked 100 years.

As part of the celebrations Etching Hill WI decided to raise funds for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for use by the local community and the many various classes and groups that use Etching Hill village hall on a regular basis.

A fundraising committee was formed and, through a number of successful events including a barn dance and coffee morning, the necessary funds to purchase the defibrillator were raised within 12 months

In June Etching Hill WI Members were very proud to attend the official handover of the AED, located outside Etching Hill village hall, by Jamie Richards, chief executive from AEDonate whose charity, based in Stone, will help maintain the equipment.

The AED is very easy to use, with step-by-step intuitive voice prompts guiding the user through the process.

Jamie explained how to perform CPR in conjunction with using of the defibrillator using the DRS ABC method – Danger, Response, Shout for Help and call 999, Airway, Breathing, Circulation.

Best fudge a sticky decision

Burntwood WI

MEMBERS again celebrated a special birthday – Lynda Jenkins providing cakes for her70th.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

There was feedback from the Denman visit. Everyone enjoyed the day and thanks were expressed to Sandie for organising it. The birthday meal at Beaudesert Golf club was a lovely occasion, the food was excellent and the tables decorated nicely.

Forthcoming trips include the musical Girls in London in July and a canal trip and Camden Market in September. Speaker was Kevin Reynolds, whose topic was dragonflies and damselflies.

The competition, six pieces of fudge, was won by Judy Griffiths. Gwyneth Howells had a great time tasting them all to decide a winner.

Ron's thought for the month closed the meeting.

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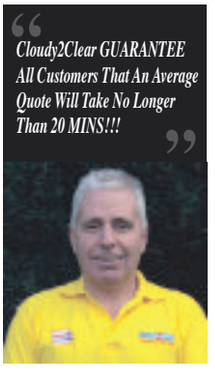

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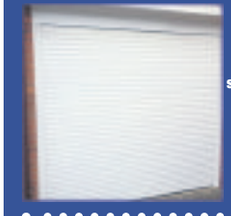

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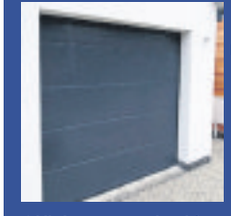

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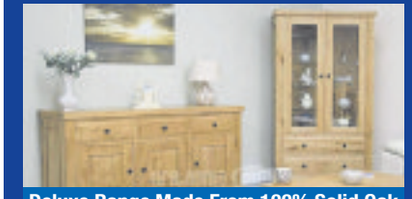

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Confidence vote after £500m toll investment

THE new owners of the M6 Toll have received a £500 million vote of confidence from a string of investors – including the UK's pensions 'lifeboat'.

The Pension Protection Fund is part of a pool of investors backing a £500m investment by the Allianz Global Investors (AllianzGI) group in the pay-as-you-go motorway.

It came days after it was revealed that the motorway had been bought by Australian investment group IFM.

The road opened at a cost of £900m in 2003 and has been losing money since. A major refinancing deal in recent years is thought to have put the owners in a position to make it profitable.

Concession

AllianzGI portfolio manager Adrian Jones said: "With the acquisition of a majority controlling stake in M6 Toll by IFM, our clients were able to invest with confidence."

AllianzGI is one of the biggest investment companies in the world, controlling around £440 billion.

Its £500m bond investment in the M6 Toll spans 32 years – the amount of time left on the motorway's concession deal with the Government. The investment is on behalf of a large number of Allianz Group companies, as well as third party clients including The Pension Protection Fund (PPF), often referred to as the UK's 'pension fund lifeboat'.

Andy Pearson, chief executive of toll road operators Midland Expressway, said: "I am delighted that AllianzGI have chosen to make a bond investment in the M6 Toll and that the Pension Protection Fund is investing alongside them.

"I think that the M6 Toll is exactly the right sort of asset to meet our investors' strategic needs, and I look forward to a long and valuable relationship with the Allianz Group companies and other investing clients along with and the Pension Protection Fund."

By Simon Penfold

Heart charity in 'join us' appeal

Laura Johnson – 'I wanted to do something positive'

THE British Heart Foundation (BHF) is calling on the people of Cannock Chase to join volunteer Laura Johnson in helping to accelerate the fight against heart disease by joining their local fundraising group and raising money for lifesaving research.

Around 132,700 people across Staffordshire are fighting a daily battle with heart and circulatory disease. Each year, these devastating conditions claim the lives of an estimated 244 people in the Cannock Chase district. Now, the charity is calling on people to join the battle against heart disease by becoming part of its local fundraising group.

Group member Laura Johnson joined the local fundraising team after her grandfather died from heart problems. "From that point I wanted to do something positive to support the work of the British Heart Foundation," she said.

"I would like to do more for my community and through the new group hope to develop my skills which will help me in the future too. Join the group and come together allowing us to fundraise and raise awareness in Cannock, making a difference locally and nationally."

For more details or to find your local group, visit www.bhf.org.uk/localfundraising or email Warren Appleby, fundraising manager for Staffordshire, at applebyw@bhf.org.uk

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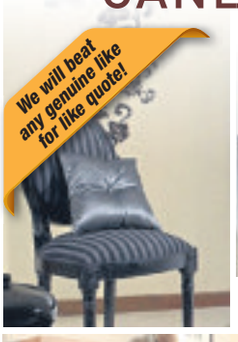

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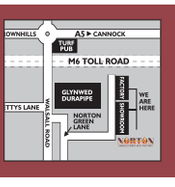

Town sees a dramatic increase in house sales

Ancient forts mapped out

Castle Ring, the site of a hill fort on Cannock Chase, which is included on the list. Picture courtesy of English Heritage

ANCIENT hill forts have been mapped online for the first time, allowing people to step back in time to Iron Age Britain.

A team of researchers, with the help of citizen scientists, has spent five years recording information on all the hill forts across England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

They have discovered there are 4,147 such ancient sites, ranging from well-preserved forts to places where only crop marks and remnants show where they once stood.

Kinver Edge, near Stourbridge, has an Iron Age hill fort as has Cannock Chase.

Castle Ring is situated high up on the southern edge of Cannock Chase. The monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of an Iron Age hillfort and the ruins and buried remains of a small medieval building identified as part of a hunting lodge.

Information on all the hill forts has been collated on a website, and will work on smartphones and tablets so that details of ancient sites can be studied while on the move.

CANNOCK has seen house sales rise at the second highest rate nationally – bucking the national trend.

The town saw home sales rise by 12 per cent between 2015 and 2016, according to new research by Lloyds Bank.

However, nationwide, 82 per cent of towns included in the research saw house sales fall. Bucking the general downward trend, Retford in the East Midlands saw the biggest rise in home sales, with a 15 per cent year-on-year increase.

Cannock was second. Cannock Chase Council's deputy leader, Gordon Alcott, said: "The first positive for Cannock is its location – people want to come out of big cities and towns and into district areas.

"Most of our properties are new builds right at the end of Cannock Chase as well. A lot of people find that a big advantage for recreational purposes.

Improving

"There is also a good transport system with the trains and our road network is improving every day. We've got Mill Green coming as well.

"Our rates in the district are one of the lowest both in the county and the country. There's also good prospects for employment."

There was a general north-south divide, with most of the towns seeing the biggest year-on-year increases in home sales being situated outside southern England. Brent in London and Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire recorded the largest drops in home sales in 2016, both falling by 30 per cent.

Despite the recent dip in home sales, there has been an improvement from when the market started to recover from the financial crisis, Lloyds said. The number of sales across England and Wales as a whole rose by 29 per cent from 2011 to 2016. And the first-time buyer market as a proportion of overall sales has continued to grow.

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Plug pulled on festival after poor ticket sales

THE long-term future of Wolvestock is in doubt after this year's event was axed due to poor ticket sales.

Wolverhampton's annual country music festival was due to be held from July 21 to 23 in what would have been its 23rd year.

But the city council pulled the plug on the two-day festival due to poor advance ticket sales.

A council spokesman said: "We had to regrettably cancel the annual Wolvestock Festival. The festival has been held in the city of Wolverhampton for a number of years but declining ticket sales mean the event is no longer commercially viable.

"Anyone who has already purchased tickets has received a refund."

Ahead of the event, some 16 artists had been lined up to perform across the main stage and dance stage. Prices varied from £50 for a weekend camping ticket to £10 per day for an adult and £4 for children.

Free

Last year, the event went ahead as planned, although fewer people turned up than expected.

For the past two years, the event has been held at Wolverhampton Racecourse after starting out as a free festival.

It used to be held in the open air in Hickman Park in Bilston and then East Park.

The festival hit a high in its 18th year, when more than 11,000 people attended.

Jim Duncan, who has organised the event from the beginning, working with the council, said: "It just got less and less economically viable.

"I think perhaps people had seen how economically priced the tickets were and thought they'd just turn up on the day rather than buy them in advance and so this has led to poor ticket sales.

"We didn't want to have all the vans turn up selling food and gifts and merchandise and have them disappointed too as they would miss out on other jobs."

Organisers are holding a line dancing event instead, featuring some of the bands that had been due to perform at Wolvestock. It takes place at Northycote Farm on July 22 from 5 to 10.30pm.

Boost for Wakes event

Heather Tranter celebrates receiving the grant for the Wakes Festival

ORGANISERS of the Burntwood Wakes Festival have received a £1,000 boost from the We Love Lichfield Fund.

The grant was one of a number presented to local clubs and organisations at the George Hotel in Lichfield.

Councillor Heather Tranter, chair of Burntwood Town Council's events committee, said: said "The grant is much appreciated and will be used to provide a variety of entertainment and activities for all ages including the mini zoo, Punch & Judy, dog obedience and Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men.

"Come along and enjoy all that will be on offer!"

At the presentation ceremony, more than £20,000 was handed out to good causes across Lichfield and Burntwood. Other recipients included 1st Longdon Guides, Burntwood Memorial Hall Community Association, Churches Together in Lichfield, Hammerwich Parent and Toddler Group, Longdon Flower Club, Shenstone Community Library Association, St Anne's Church Chasetown, and Victim Support.

Almost 100 people attended the presentation, hosted by We Love Lichfield patron Simon Price, CEO of Arthur Price. He said: "The We Love Lichfield Fund is five years old and run for volunteers by volunteers. Volunteers are, in my view, incredible people and the backbone of our society."

The Wakes Festival will be held at Burntwood Leisure Centre on Saturday between midday and 4pm.

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Restored memorial to be rededicated

The memorial has undergone 'extensive refurbishment' after money was secured through the Heritage Lottery Fund

AN iconic war memorial will be rededicated next year as extensive work on the site draws to a close.

Hednesford War Memorial, off the A460 in Hednesford, will be rededicated on July 7, 2018 after it underwent improvement work alongside Hednesford Park.

Both the park and the memorial have undergone 'extensive refurbishment' after money was secured through the Heritage Lottery Fund. Work at the memorial has included the restoration of the pillars leading up to the monument, the resurfacing of paths, restoration of fencing and gates, the replacement of the concrete slab step to the memorial and the restoration of the landscaping.

Tony McGovern, managing director of Cannock Chase Council, said: "Following the refurbishment of Hednesford Park and the war memorial, the Hednesford War Memorial Preservation Society are really pleased with the result."

The war memorial originally opened on September 9, 1922. The names of soldiers who died in the First World War are on plates around the memorial.

Those soldiers who lost their lives in the Second World War and Korean War have their memorial in the form of a large stone supplementing the main war memorial.

Martial arts trainer took his own life

A MARTIAL arts trainer from Wolverhampton who was being investigated by police took his own life at a Midlands beauty spot, a coroner has ruled.

Matthew Kendall, of Wednesfield, was found with a gunshot wound in the Pole Cottage car park, near Church Stretton on Long Mynd shortly after 6pm on October 16.

Mr Kendall, who ran Telford Thai Boxing Club, had been arrested on suspicion of grooming three days earlier.

At the start of the hearing, senior coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, John Ellery said he would not be looking at the details of what led Mr Kendall, aged 39, to have contact with the police prior to his death.

Question

"I am restricting the inquest to that question of how he died," he said.

Mr Ellery told the hearing in Wellington, that the cause of death was given as a gunshot wound to the head. He recorded a conclusion that the death was suicide."I am sure he did the act that led to his death. I am sure that he intended to kill himself," he said. He added the gun was licensed.

He said at the time Mr Kendall was on police bail from Greater Manchester Police "following alleged offences" made in Bolton on October 8 and he was due to answer bail on December 5.

Matthew Kendall

The alleged offence also led to an investigation by West Mercia Police into the sports club where Mr Kendall, of Holberg Grove, in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, worked. The operation is now closed.

West Mercia, West Midlands and Staffordshire forces were also involved in the case that was being investigated by The Independent Police Complaints Commission.

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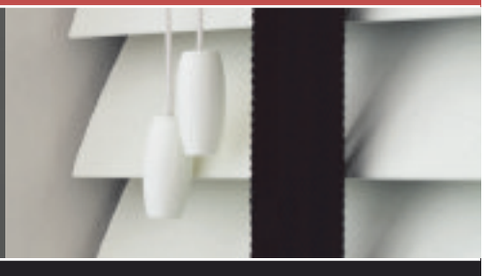

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County can capitalise on Queen's Speech – leader

THE Government's commitment to get the best deal on Brexit, create more skilled, well paid jobs and move ahead with Phase 2 of HS2 will be key for Staffordshire's future, according to the county council's leader.

As the details of the Government's major bills and proposals were laid out in the Queen's Speech, Philip Atkins said many of the plans will resonate in Staffordshire.

"As expected, Brexit dominated the speech, and we would all hope and expect the Government to 'get the best deal' on Brexit as this is hugely important to residents, businesses and of course agricultural businesses and farming in a huge rural county like ours," he said.

Deliver

"In Staffordshire, we have worked hard to develop a strong economy and create a higher skilled, higher waged workforce equipped to meet the employment demands of the future.

"There was also confirmation on a parliamentary bill to deliver the second phase of HS2, which will run through Staffordshire as it travels from Birmingham to Crewe.

"From the outset we have made sure that Staffordshire's communities' voices are heard in terms of impact and mitigation, but we want to make sure Staffordshire and local businesses share in the economic benefits too."

The Queen's Speech also included reference to a consultation aimed at 'improving social care'.

Councillor Atkins added: "Funding and delivering decent, long-term affordable social care for a growing ageing population is an ongoing challenge for not just this county, but for the country."

Property team rewarded

Celebrating their success are, from left, Darren Wetwood, Rosie Payne, assistant director Andrew Kenny, Housing Plus Group chief executive Sarah Boden, John Morrall, Cathy Jones and Michelle Nash

AN ambitious apprenticeship programme, promotion opportunities and a far-reaching training plan post-merger helped Property Plus spark the interest of judges in national awards given by the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA).

In the category for excellence in training and development, Property Plus was highly commended for training to support the growth of its in-house electrical team.

Property Plus is part of Housing Plus Group, providing repairs and maintenance for 12,000 homes as well as retirement living communities throughout Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Following the launch of a new electrical service in 2014, Property Plus employed 14 electrical specialists and created training opportunities for four apprentices.

Then the merger between Severnside Housing and South Staffordshire Housing Association brought the need for staff to be quickly upskilled and qualified.

Representatives from Property Pluse received their certificate at the ECA annual awards dinner in London.

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Parish council to take on picnic spot

Wimblebury Mound – 'an important, historic piece of land on the edge of Heath Hayes with the most fantastic views'

THE first groups to manage parts of Staffordshire County Council's countryside estate have been chosen.

Subject to approval and agreement, Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council will take on the management and maintenance of the Wimblebury Mound picnic area, while another group, yet to be named, will take on Consall Nature Park near Stoke-on-Trent.

Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member responsible for the review, said: "The estate remains safe in the council's ownership.

"The purpose of this exercise has been to consider ways of managing the diverse country parks, greenways, picnic and other areas for everyone's benefit and enjoyment in an affordable manner. I thank all those groups and organisations which showed an interest in this process – we have received some interesting ideas."

The county council's countryside estate comprises six large country parks, nine smaller picnic sites and three greenways – disused railways lines now used as cycleways.

Wimblebury Mound is also known locally as Cannel Mount. Ray Smythe, clerk to the parish council, said: "We're extremely happy with the news. This is an important, historic piece of land, which stands on the edge of Heath Hayes and has the most fantastic views."

A report on the progress of the scheme is scheduled to be presented to the county council's cabinet in the autumn.

Support for 999 workers

THE Occupational Health department, which oversees Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, has launched a mental health peer support network for employees.

It consists of staff who have undertaken mental health first aid training, and they will act as peer support/well-being champions for their colleagues.

So far, 37 employees have been trained, with a further 24 staff about to commence training. In addition to the peer support network, there will be a rolling programme of mental health awareness training which will be offered to every member of the force, irrespective of rank or role.

Donna Cantrell, occupational health safety and welfare manager for Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, said, "During Mental Health Awareness Week we heard from employees who shared their own amazing and inspirational stories.

"Mental health affects us all, in different ways and at different times. The statistics of mental health prevalence within the emergency services remains worrying and concerning.

"Our staff all have jobs like no other and therefore require support like no other. We hope our will provide a valuable resource to our employees, encouraging open discussion."

Nick Baker, Deputy Chief Constable of the force, met with the mental health and well being champions at the launch. He said: "We live in challenging times, dealing with situations that can have a serious lasting effective on people."

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Hundreds to have a say on road network

PEOPLE can have a say on Staffordshire's road network and play a part in future improvements through a survey.

A sample of 3,300 residents in the county is being issued with the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction survey.

Its results, to be published in October, will help councils to share expertise, look at opportunities to work together and get the best value for money.

The findings will inform the county council about what people think and enable it to assess how it is performing, where it needs to prioritise and how it can improve.

Those who receive a survey can complete either the paper or online version.

Now in its 10th year, the survey is being carried out on behalf of the participating councils by market research specialist Ipsos MORI.

Expertise

A total of 112 councils throughout the country with highways responsibilities are taking part. Staffordshire County Council's cabinet support member for highways and transport Councillor Helen Fisher said: "This survey will enable people to have their say on our highways operations and also inform us about the views and priorities of our residents.

"The same survey is being used nationwide, which means we can spot trends, share expertise and work more collaboratively where appropriate.

"In addition, a standard survey across the country means all councils participating get better value for money. I'd urge people who receive a form to complete one, as their views are valuable to us and can help shape future decision making."

Last year's results and more information about the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction are available at www.nhtnetwork.org

Wildlife theme for show

Teddy the Fox and Otto the Otter will be greeting the crowd

EXOTIC wildlife will be one of the main attractions at the Kings Bromley Show.

The annual country show will be staged on the Kings Bromley Showfield from 9.30am on July 22.

Parking is free, entertainment will be provided by the Eureka Jazz Band, and all-day refreshment is 'plentiful', with real ale being served from the Shardlow brewery bus.

The them of the show is All Creatures Great and Small, from creepy crawly spiders, scorpions, slithering lizards and snakes to the cute and cuddly in the form of meerkats, rabbits and guinea pigs, as well as a bird of prey display.

The Black Rock llamas, as featured on ITVs popular Weekend Escape, will be obstacle-racing to music and amusing commentary, while furry woodland characters Teddy the Fox and Otto the Otter will be mingling with the crowd.

About 200 exhibits will be on show in the horticultural marquee, and there is also a treasured car parade, craft fair and trade stands. Main sponsors this year are Cameron Homes and the Co-op.

For further details visit www.kingsbromleyshow.co.uk

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JCB's mud run attracts record field

A RECORD field of more than 2,700 competitors is preparing to take part in JCB's annual mud run.

The sixth annual JCB Mud Run raised £55,256 last year – bringing the grand total raised for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in Staffordshire to more than £230,000 since the event started in 2012.

Entrants from all over the UK will be competing on Saturday on land close to JCB's World HQ in Rocester. Entries close tomorrow (Friday).

Courtroom drama signals end for Hall

THE trial of the man known as 'the greatest villain that ever stood in the Old Bailey' was brought to life by a theatre group – its last show at Stafford's historic Shire Hall before it closes.

Stafford-based Creative Arts Theatre has been behind numerous live theatre shows across the borough over the last 25 years. For the last 10 years, it has used the historic Court Room at the Shire Hall to host live history productions of some of the most famous and dramatic court cases of all time.

With the Shire Hall set to close next Monday, the group has said goodbye to the site with a take on the famous trial of William 'the Poisoner' Palmer. Also known as the Prince of Poisoners, Palmer was a Rugeley doctor found guilty of murder in 1855 in one of the most notorious cases of the 19th century.

Charles Dickens called Palmer 'the greatest villain that ever stood in the Old Bailey' and it was up to the Creative Arts Theatre to bring his downfall to life.

Ken Tilley, who formed the group 25 years ago, said: "We had a very successful last run at the Shire Hall, with four sell-out performances. It is a shame that we can't continue to do this, because the huge draw in terms of the crowds is the court room, it is perfect for what we do."

After being found guilty at the Old Bailey in London, Palmer was sentenced to hang at Stafford Gaol.

Members of Creative Arts Theatre perform The Trial of William Palmer at the Shire Hall

Finance plan as vet practices taken over

TWO vet practices in Staffordshire have been taken over by one of the UK's largest veterinary groups.

Solihull-based Linnaeus Group has continued its expansion by taking on board its first large animal offerings in the shape of Donnachie and Townley Veterinary Surgeons and Shires Vets.

Shires has three practices in Staffordshire, offering small animal, equine and farm animal services, while Donnachie and Townley is a mixed animal surgery with practices in Rugeley and Stafford.

The two mixed animal practices have been servicing the needs of animal owners and farmers across Staffordshire for decades. Their acquisition by Linnaeus takes the group's number of sites across the UK to almost 60.

Linnaeus chief executive Lynne Hill, a qualified veterinary surgeon and first female president of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, said: "We welcome Donnachie and Townley and Shires Vets to the Linnaeus family and look forward to nurturing their good work with our expertise and financial support.

"It is our plan to continue investing in high quality practices which we can support, while helping them retain their independence," she added.

"We are very pleased to have brought two leading mixed animal practices on board."

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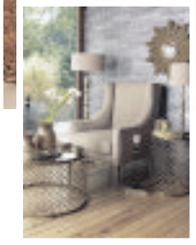

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'Innovative' canalside homes plan unveiled

DOZENS of residents and councillors were given a preview of plans to develop a new canalside community.

An exhibition was held giving members of the public and local authority representatives' further information about the development proposals.

The prestigious development, Canalside Fradley, is located on a 25-acre redundant pig farm at Hay End Lane, Fradley, and proposes a mixture of housing to meet different community needs.

It includes family homes, self-build retirement plots, flats for independent retirement living, assisted living accommodation, a new care home and neighbourhood services and facilities.

Residents were able to ask questions about the proposals at the exhibition at the village hall in Fradley and register their feedback to the developers, The Leavesley Group, as well as look at the plans in more depth.

Self-build retirement accommodation is envisaged in the canalside scheme

An aerial shot of the site showing the boundary of the proposed development

Reflects

An outline planning application is expected to be submitted to planners later this year.

Director James Leavesley said: "Canalside Fradley is an exciting and innovative project which represents something of a departure from traditional residential development in favour of a model which embraces lifestyle choices, promotes community interaction and better reflects the housing needs of the local area.

"We were able to reassure those who came to see our plans that we are not developing the towpath by the canal, so that will still be accessible to the public, and that we will be making highways improvements.

"I'm pleased to say that we are also incorporating the ancient hedgerows into our designs.

"The UK is home to a changing and increasingly ageing population which means demand for affordable and private facilities that support a diverse range of needs and dependency levels is rising.

"There is a need to develop more choice to accommodate these differing needs and create environments that promote wellbeing and quality of life as well as assist the fluidity of the housing market. Canalside Fradley embraces this vision, offering housing within a community setting that not only meets the accommodation requirements of all generations but their holistic needs too.

"The project is still in its infancy. However, we will be using the feedback from the exhibition to develop more detailed plans."

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A third of parents don't realise dental care is free for children. A survey revealed that the public is reluctant to visit the dentist due to a host of misconceptions over the cost of dental care.

Nearly half (48%) of respondents didn't realise under-19s in full-time education also receive free dental care and 34% didn't realise pregnant women or those who have given birth in the past year are also entitled to free treatment. Despite oral health improving in children in recent decades, the number one reason for hospital admissions remains tooth decay, even though children receive free treatment.

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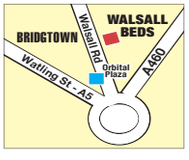

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Simon backs quest to find Britain's best

Simon Weston, backing the initiative to find brave Britons

A FALKLANDS war veteran has called on the people of Walsall to help find the unsung heroes who represent 'The Best Of British'.

Simon Weston, who was named the Nation's Favourite Hero in 2014, has joined forces with global hearing specialist Amplifon, which has a branch at the Saddlers Shopping Centre, for The Amplifon Awards for Brave Britons.

The accolades were launched in honour of the organisation's founder Second World War hero Major Charles Holland, decorated by both the British and American military for bravery behind enemy lines.

Mr Weston said: "The awards will shine a light on a very British breed of hero; those who, like Major Charles Holland, through incredible acts of courage, bravery and incredible selflessness, are an inspiration to others."

The winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Army and Navy Club in London on Tuesday, October 17.

The closing date for entries is Friday, August 11.

Visit www.amplifon.com/web/uk/awards to nominate someone, with four categories to choose from.

Neglect had part to play in death of patient, 52

NEGLECT 'contributed' to the death of a 52-year-old woman at Walsall Manor Hospital, an inquest heard.

By Robert Cox

Mother-of-two Jacqueline Holland was taken by ambulance to A&E at the hospital on December 7 last year before being transferred to the Acute Medical Unit and later to a respiratory ward.

She was treated for possible pneumonia but died within 48 hours after going into cardiac arrest as a result of kidney failure.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, admits there was a failure to recognise she was deteriorating and showing sepsis 'triggers' which required action.

Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique concluded Ms Holland died from natural causes contributed to by neglect. He said: "On the balance of probabilities Ms Holland would not have died at the time she did if basic medical care had been rendered."

Mr Siddique said changes brought in by the trust since Ms Holland's death meant he would not be asking for a report on preventing future deaths. A post-mortem found Ms Holland died of cardiac arrhythmia due to kidney failure as a result of established severe scarring of the liver. The condition – known as hepatorenal syndrome – was not diagnosed by doctors at the hospital.

Jaswinder Bassra, the nurse in charge of the respiratory ward at the time, said if she had been provided more information about the patient her judgement 'would have been different'. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust made a total of eight admissions at the outset of the inquest.

They also included there being no 'registrar to registrar' referral when Ms Holland was transferred to AMU and that once there she was not clerked at for eleven hours.

The inquest heard Ms Holland had a history of drinking but had not had a drink for five weeks before her death.

Cake lover rises to the occasion for campaign

A BUDDING baker diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma has had her favourite cake recipe selected to be part of a national fundraising campaign.

Sam Farr of Essington was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at the age of 23. And now her cappuccino cake recipe has been selected to be part of a national campaign to raise money for blood cancer research charity Bloodwise, which supports people with conditions like Sam's.

The cake has been professionally designed for inclusion in the online pack for the Tea with the Girls campaign, a new initiative encouraging people across the country to host their own afternoon tea to raise money for research into blood cancers.

Sam, now 26, was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2014 after experiencing fatigue, unexplained weight loss and night sweats – all of them common symptoms.

Sam Farr is pictured in the online pack for the Tea with the Girls campaign

Tests

She says: "The first doctor I saw said I was bulimic because of my weight loss, but the second found a lump in my neck. He immediately sent me for a blood test and chest x-ray, which showed a mass in my neck and chest."

After further tests, including a CT scan and bone marrow aspiration, Sam was diagnosed with stage two Hodgkin lymphoma and underwent chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

"The stem cell transplant was the hardest thing I've ever had to go through," she said. "But after a few days I started to feel stronger and was eventually allowed home."

Now in remission, Sam hopes her recipe will encourage people to get baking and host their own Tea with the Girls events. Her recipe is available to download for free alongside other teatime treats.Visit www.bloodwise.org.uk/tea-with-the-girls

Application to trim ash trees

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

5 Sanderling Rise, Burntwood – works to three ash trees, including removal of deadwood.

32 Ironstone Road, Burntwood – two-storey rear extension to form kitchen, dining room, utility, bedrooms and en suite and conversion of study to form garage.

84 Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace – partial demolition of rear single-storey extension and erection of a single and two-storey rear extension to form kitchen, bathroom, utility, entrance hall and bedroom with en suite.

8 Leander Close, Burntwood – demolition of garage and erection of a two-storey side and single-storey rear extension to form kitchen, utility, WC, study, entrance hall and bedroom with en suite.

8 Highfield Close, Burntwood – conversion of car port to games room, entrance hall and utility and new pitched roof to rear.

The Hartlands, 15 Brook End, Longdon – erection of a three-bedroom detached dwelling, detached double garage and associated works.

3 Bromley Court, Kings Bromley – felling of sycamore tree in front garden.

Brookfield Cottage, Lower Way, Upper Longdon – single-storey extension to rear to extend living room and form WC.

Comments about any of the submitted applications must be received by July 10.

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www.mittonmanor.co.uk

Email: info@mittonmanor.co.uk

Location: ST19 5QW (2 miles west of Penkridge) At the Texaco island on the A449 in Penkridge turn west into Bungham Lane. Turn right at the end of Bungham Lane and then immediately left. Keep right at the fork after the single file bridge. The house is 1½ miles from the bridge on the right. Car park in field before house

'Talk to my officers' plea on armed patrols move

ARMED police will continue to patrol the streets of Staffordshire to keep people safe in 'uncertain times', the county's new top officer says.

Gareth Morgan, who replaced Jane Sawyers as Chief Constable , admitted that the force is facing challenges.

He said armed police will be increasingly visible in the wake of recent terror attacks – but promised this will not become the norm. It came as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner called together leaders from across Staffordshire to discuss how ready public agencies are to respond to major incidents.

Mr Morgan said: "We've increased the number of armed officers deployed in Staffordshire in the last 18 months and will constantly review that in terms of what the threat is. I want to be sure I'm protecting the public; that's my primary responsibility. The reality is, people will see more armed police on Staffordshire's streets.

Anxiety

"Do I recognise people are anxious when they see armed police officers? I fully accept that. The answer to that is for people to go and speak to the officers, talk to them, discuss what the issues are.

"The officers are there to look after people, but I know that causes a level of anxiety. We will only do that [deploy armed officers] when we decide a risk requires us to be available.

"The reason why you're seeing them is not because a particular event is particularly risky, but it means we can deploy them quicker.

"When you've got a big event like a music concert, if something happened it might take us a long time to get there, so why not have them there anyway.

"Do I want to see armed police on the streets as the norm of policing? No I don't – and it won't be the norm in Staffordshire."

Armed police were seen at the Ironman event in Staffordshire and at the force's own open day earlier this month.

Jack raises hopes of others

Fifteen-year-old Jack Groom, right, has tirelessly been raising £5,000 to pay for a new minibus for his Norton Canes Ability football team

A CLUB which helps young people with disabilities and a love of football to play the beautiful game is celebrating after getting a new minibus.

Norton Canes Ability has spent £5,000 on a new vehicle to help collect players and take teams to competitive games across the country.

It follows some heroic fundraising by young footballer Jack Groom.

The 15-year-old was diagnosed with cancer at the age of five and has recently been declared as being in remission.

Over the last year, as he looked to finish off his battle with cancer, he has been raising money towards a minibus for the club where he gets to show off his skills.

Together with community donations, club funds and £1,500 from One Stop's Carriers for Cash scheme, the bus has now been brought.

Jack's mother, Linda Groom, said: "I am delighted that Jack has been able to play the game he loves thanks to the club.

"The bus is going to be a great buy for them and help a lot of people in a similar position to him," she added.

"I am proud that he has turned a negative into a positive, and I am sure others will now."

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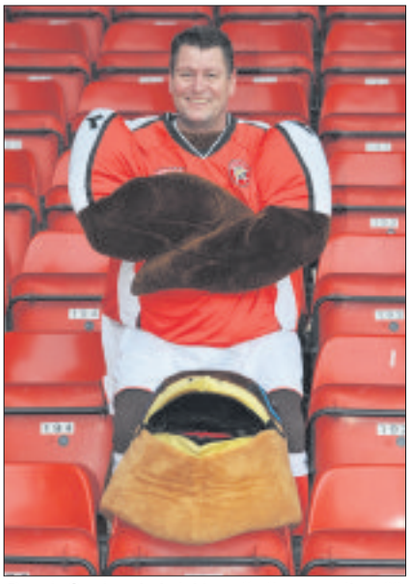
Swifty exit for Dougie as he flies the nest



Dougie Swain, who's taking off after more than 20 years playing the role of Swifty at the Saddlers

HE has played the role of Swifty for more than 20 years – and now Dougie Swain is ready to hand over the suit to someone new.

Walsall FC is offering its fans the job of a lifetime as it looks for someone to take over the role of club mascot.

Dougie needs a knee operation so has decided the time has come to retire from the role.

The club has now posted a job advert as it looks for someone to take the role.

The job will involve being in the popular bird suit between 1pm and 4pm on home matches on Saturdays and between 6pm and 9pm on Tuesdays for evening fixtures.

Supporters Trust secretary Steve Davies said: "Dougie is one of the unsung, or unseen, heroes of the club. I bet fans could walk past him and have no idea who he is.

"Apparently there has been lots of interest in the role and lots of people on social media saying they are interested so lets see what happens."

Three rivals shortlisted for HS2 franchise

THREE bids have been shortlisted to operate the HS2 high-speed railway, the Government has announced. The companies are competing for the West Coast Partnership franchise.

It will include services on the existing West Coast route, through Wolverhampton and Stafford, from 2019 and initial HS2 trains between London and Birmingham from 2026.

By John Corser

Rail firms based in the UK, China, Hong Kong, France and Italy are among those in the running to win the contract.

The shortlisted bids include a joint venture between UK-based First-Group and Italian operator Trenitalia; a partnership between Hong Kong firm MTR and Guangshen Railway Company – based in China – as well as several sub-contractors and a joint entry by UK-based Stagecoach and Virgin, as well as French rail operator SNCF.

The Department for Transport said the bids feature 'UK rail experts', companies that operate high-speed railways around the world, and business with 'an excellent track record in customer services'.

The winner of the franchise will be expected to work with HS2 Ltd to launch the first services on the £55.7 billion high-speed railway.

Virgin Trains, jointly owned by Virgin and Stagecoach, holds the current InterCity West Coast franchise.

Rail union RMT has expressed anger that the shortlist for the West Coast partnership and the South Eastern rail franchise do not feature a public sector bid.

General secretary Mick Cash claimed the General Election showed that voters had rejected privatisation.

The Rail Delivery Group, representing train companies and Network Rail, says passengers and the Treasury benefit by rail companies from around the world bringing 'new ideas and innovation', with the number of journeys being made doubling over the past 20 years.

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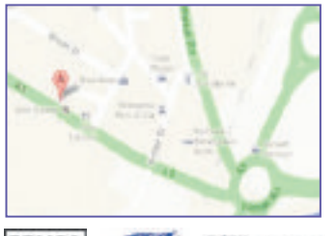

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Home from home care with emphasis on the individual

The aim is to help residents become more independent

Catherine Care provides bespoke support to adults with a learning disability. It was initiated and developed by the directors who not only have many years professional experience in health and social care but also caring responsibilities of a close family member.

They recognised a need for real person-centred support that was innovative and could really capture the goals and aspirations of the people requiring their support. The residential and supported living services are based within the community of Great Wyrley. The residential home is cosy, with the emphasis on developing residents to become more independent and integrate into the local community, while creating a real family feel to it.

Values

Catherine Care is a forward thinking organisation and has recognised the need for homely environments for people that suit their individual support requirements while maintaining that sense of community and interaction with peers we all find important.

The challenge for us as an organisation is to maintain our values and achieve this in a cost-effective way that is affordable to enable full choice and control, balanced with a safe living environment which enables people to achieve full community inclusion and citizenship.

The houses therefore are in the heart of the community and have been internally designed to suit the specific needs of the residents.

We have three clients who through the transition from residential care and elsewhere are very excited about the move to more independent living.

As an organisation that is always ready to develop as the need presents itself, in early 2016 we expanded our day opportunities recognising the need for pushing the boundaries.

We feel we have taken the best of more traditional services and combined these with new, exciting and innovative opportunities to ensure every individual has the opportunity to grow and develop to their own specific potential.

We have a highly skilled and dedicated workforce with specialist practitioners that provides scope for residents living in the new supported living to continue to develop their skills while living independently from family.

To enable you to gain an insight of what we do, here is the profile of one client who is very excited about the move: J has lived happily in his family home all his life; he has many challenges to overcome including a learning disability as well as mobility problems and varying degrees of poor physical health.

Over the three months of transition, J has been supported to make his own choices and develop skills to enable him to manage the choices he has made.

Using a team approach, his family and those professionals involved in his care agree that he has reached the stage where he is ready to move to supported living but will require continued support to reach his full potential and achieve his goals and aspirations, while maintaining his safety and well being.

Although his extended family do have mixed feelings about him moving on, they are reassured in the knowledge that this is not only a natural progression for him but he will be well supported to grow and develop.

After all, he only wants to 'leave home' and live independently in a house like his sisters do!

He is particularly pleased that he can visit family members who live close by, and he plans to invite them to a house-warming party; he has also mentioned cooking a meal for them in the future.

For us to continue to achieve these outcomes for people, we need to recruit forward-thinking, ambitious staff to join our team.

We need people who the personal qualities to support people in a person-centred way where flexibility of hours and imaginative thinking is essential, along with the determination to enable these individuals to real their full potential.

At Catherine Care, we aspire to provide a service that is fully 'person centred' that includes listening, encouraging, learning together, and focusing on what is important to the individuals we support at that time in their life. We work closely and honestly with their family members and friends in individuals to gain their full potential and achieve what they wish for.

Our ethos is to act creatively but safely to give individuals a life that makes sense to them with outcomes decided by them too.

Benefit

Each person has a support plan that reflects a day-to-day plan as well as an overall plan where health, wellbeing and personal needs are respected.

Catherine Care works in partnership with clients, their families, employers, health and educational professionals, colleagues, commissioners, and other providers including voluntary organisations to ensure that our clients benefit from a 'joined up' approach.

We have attracted and developed our own number of local practitioners and managers who take a personal interest in getting the best.

We strive not only to be the best provider of support but also the best employers. Yes, our standards are high, and we expect nothing less from our staff, and in return they receive an excellent package of training, professional support and opportunities to progress through a vibrant and forward-thinking company.

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No getting in a rut for early morning town drivers, with deer on the move

The deer outside a home in Bloxwich

DEER oh deer, what are you doing here? Driving through Bloxwich in the early hours of the morning, Craig Allen was not expecting to see three deer strolling down the main road.

Report by Harry Leather

But that was exactly the sight that greeted the distribution manager as he started his regular commute at 4.30am on Tuesday.

Just a few minutes after leaving his home in Shelfield, Mr Allen cut through the Low Farm estate and turned onto the A34 Stafford Road when he was greeted by the unusual sight near Bloxwich Golf Club.

"There was three of them," he explained. "I didn't know what they were at first and just about missed them before reversing back.They were just chilling out, playing in the middle of the road."

Concerned for the animals' safety on what would soon turn into a busy road during rush hour, Mr Allen herded the group off the tarmac and onto a nearby driveway.

"When they went back onto the footpath they were looking around and eating stuff off trees and the grass nearby," he added.

"I wound down the window and they didn't run off. I thought they were going to poke their heads into my car at one point!"

In a rush to arrive at work in Telford on time, Mr Allen called the police, but they decided no action was required and the location and welfare of the deer remains unknown. Where the deer came from also remains a mystery to Mr Allen, who works as a deputy transport and distribution manager. "I live in Shelfield and was around a mile and a half away from home when I spotted the deer. I've never seen one around here and nobody has."

Incredibly, the Bloxwich sighting was the second time in two days Mr Allen had been greeted by deer in suburban areas of the West Midlands.

On Monday he spotted a young deer on a car park in Ketley, Telford. The fawn was led to safety away from the main road by Mr Allen's colleagues.

Thieves use drill in car theft bid

TWO brazen thieves tried to drill their way into a car in broad daylight as it was left at a country park.

The failed attempt happened around 2pm last Thursday at Chasewater Country Park, situated near to Brownhills.

PCSO Deborah Barton said: "The males appeared to be trying to drill the car lock but when spotted they have fled the area possibly in a red Corsa.

"We only know that both males were wearing baseball caps.

"Please can I remind residents to remain alert at all times and please remove all valuables from your vehicles before securing your vehicle.

"I know the weather has cooled down a bit, but lots of motorists are still leaving car windows open while they pop into shops.

"Let's not give thieves the opportunity."

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Club signs up to 25-year deal over playing fields

THE keys to Coppy Nook Playing Fields have been handed over to Burntwood Dragons & Burntwood Phoenix Football Club.

The signing of the lease by representatives of Lichfield District Council, Hammerwich Parish Council and the club signalled the start of a 25-year agreement over the site in Hospital Road, Hammerwich.

It means ownership will still remain with the district and parish councils but the club will now manage the site, which includes five grass pitches, a changing block, car park and play area.

The two councils chose the football club to run the sporting and leisure facility for the people of Hammerwich and Burntwood, following a competitive application process.

Councillor Iain Eadie, cabinet member for leisure at the district council, said: "I am pleased the lease has been signed and that a football club, which has local connections, will be managing the site and working hard to make sure sport and leisure increases in this area.

"We know Coppy Nook Playing Fields is a much loved and used resource by local people, which is why we chose a club that will not only manage the facility well, but will boost sports participation."

By Simon Stone

Councillor Mi Greenway, vice-chairman of the parish council, said: "Hammerwich Parish Council is delighted to see a new agreement that will ensure this great facility will benefit local people."

Club chairman Laurence Danan said: "From humble beginnings, the club has nurtured and empowered thousands of local community members and we have significantly grown our grassroots football family.

"Today we stand tall as an FA Charter Standard Football Club with over 300 amazing players in 32 dynamic adult and youth teams."

Players, club officials and dignitaries at the Coppy Nook Playing Fields handover ceremony

Grant aid scheme is now open

GRANT aid applications are invited from organisations that provide a service to the local community or enhance the image and identity of Burntwood.

Burntwood Town Council operates a limited annual grant aid budget, and the amount requested by applicants usually exceeds the amount available.

The 2017 scheme will close on September 29. Decisions will be announced at a presentation evening in late November.

Application packs can bedownloaded from www.burntwood-tc.gov.uk

The scheme provides start-up grants for new organisations as well as grants to organisations already operating.

For further details, call 01543 677166.

Appeal over dog fouling

LICHFIELD District Council is urging residents to help tackle dog walkers who persistently fail to clean up after their pets.

The authority is tackling the issue street by street and, if a dog fouling hotspot is reported, will deliver postcards to homes urging residents to come forward with any information they may have.

To report a fouling hotspot, visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/reportit or call 01543 308725.

Youngsters can apply for funding

BURNTWOOD Town Council is inviting applications for the bursary scheme established to celebrate the life and achievements of inspiration teenager Stephen Sutton.

The scheme is aimed at talented young people who live within the boundaries of Burntwood and is split into two age bands – 11 to 14 and 15-19 – with up to £1,000 available for each.

The scheme is intended to help fund additional opportunities to develop talent further.

Full details and an application form can be collected from The Old Mining College Centre, in Queen Street, Chasetown, or can be requested by calling 01543 677166 or downloaded from www.burntwood-tc.gov.uk

Site manager in awards bid

BUILDING site manager Dave Evans is in the running for a top health and safety award.

The Bellway Homes worker has been commended for the Sheasby Park site in Lichfield and will now compete for the National House Building Council's highly commended, and national award, to be announced at a gala event on July 7.

The awards scheme was set up to honour the UK's safest home builders.

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Revamp paves the way for innovative learning formula

Commercial feature

In November 2016 Stafford College officially merged with Newcastle-under-Lyme College, the highest performing further education college in Staffordshire.

The merger represents a significant milestone in the history of both colleges and the dawn of a new era, which brings with it the return of A-levels to Stafford College, a senior management team with extensive sector experience and significant financial investment into the campus and student facilities.

Opening for students starting with the college this September, Stafford College's brand new Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy Academy will offer top-class facilities and a highly professional environment in which students will be able to gain the skills and practical experience they need for a successful career in the hairdressing and beauty industry.

Stafford College has seen significant financial investment into the campus

Improved

The college is also opening its doors to a new £3.5 million Science and Technology Centre, which will inspire the next generation of innovators with state-of-the art facilities such as science and engineering laboratories, computing suites, advanced manufacturing areas and a LEGO® Education Innovation Studio.

Investment into student socialising spaces is under way with the opening of a coffee lounge serving Costa coffee and an improved canteen area.

Karen Dobson, principal and chief executive at Stafford College, said: "The renovation of one of our buildings is an exciting development for Stafford College. The Science and Technology Centre will be an innovative learning environment, one of the best facilities of its type in the West Midlands.

"The centre will be the hub for our new sixth form provision, giving students the opportunity to learn and develop the skills needed to progress to university or on to an advanced higher apprenticeship."

New A Levels & Pathways for September 2017

From September 2017 Stafford College will introduce three brand new, distinctly different 'sixth form pathways' which will give prospective students the opportunity to choose from the following options:

Traditional academic route – 3 A-levels

Combined academic & vocational route – 2 A-levels & one BTEC qualification

Vocational route – full BTEC Extended Diploma, equivalent to 3 A-levels

The 'sixth form pathways' are all level 3 qualifications, equating to 3 A-levels and providing excellent progression routes to university or higher apprenticeships.

Prospective students interested in studying at Stafford College are encouraged to visit the college's website, www.staffordcoll.ac.uk, for full course details.

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'Really amazing' – pupils turn on style for prom

From left, Megan Thomas, Prom Queen Emily Harvey-Stephens, Jordan Rollinson, Ellie Fletcher and Abi Evans

WOLGARSTON High School in Penkridge held its annual Year 11 prom at The Moat House in Acton Trussell.

As in previous years, there was a variety of different transportation used, ranging from Ferraris and Lamborghinis to VW camper vans, classic Minis and tractors.

Organised by family-links coordinator Sharon Wynn, the prom was a chance for parents to see their sons and daughters, and their school friends, dressed up for one of the school's biggest celebrations of the year.

Year 11 student Kiera Hope said: "It was a really amazing evening, it is something we will never forget."

Students were greeted at The Moat House with custom-made non-alcoholic cocktails and were seated at their tables in the main function room, where all of the students enjoyed a three-course meal.

All of the students were given forms to vote for their Prom King and Queen. Once all of the votes had been counted up, the winners were announced. This year's Prom King and Queen were Alex Lavender and Emily Harvey-Stephens.

"As always, it has been a pleasure to organise the prom for our students and see them enjoying themselves after working so hard this year at school," Mrs Wynn said. "They have all done Wolgarston proud."

● E-mail your Prom pictures to cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Prom King Alex Lavender with Charlotte Addison

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The parties and their lawyers are required to sign an agreement that commits themto trying to resolve the issues without going to Court.

Rhonda is already a member of Resolution and so she is committed to adopting a family focused approach to resolving issues and disputes between parties - whichis often more effective andsaves substantial legal costs.To nowbe able to offer clients an opportunity to work collaboratively provides Rhonda and the family team at Moseleyswith an additional way toassist people who are facing separation, divorce or disputes concerning their children (when people often feel very vulnerable and uncertain of their future) in a sympathetic, constructive and cost effective way.

Moseleys solicitors have an extensive Family team, Property team and Private Client team. Moseleys can assist you with many legal matters including making a Will or Lasting Power of Attorney; obtaining a Grant of Probate and dealing with the estate of someone who has died; buying and selling properties;commercial property matters; debt recovery; employment matters and civil litigation matters.

If you need advice about a family matter or any other legal matter or if you would like to find out more about the Collaborative Law Process then pleasecontact **Moseleys on 01543 414 100 (quoting ref: RMB/01).** Our Family Team offer a free 30 minute consultation and we would be very happy to help you.

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Ex-teacher uses expertise to help others

A FORMER Hednesford teacher who was part of a team that established one of the first Academy schools in the Midlands is now using her experience to help those running educational businesses locally.

Bernadette Ratcliffe aims to help private businesses that operate in the education sector, such as nurseries, child minders, kids' cafes and children's clubs by providing opportunities to build networks of skills and expertise.

She is making the Midlands a centre for the convergence of education practice and expertise tomorrow (Friday) by running a Service to Education conference at Advantage House in Lichfield, featuring speakers and exhibitors from local businesses, plus a visit from renowned academia author Howard Sharron. "Running any kind of business is hard work," she said. "I want to use my experience of running my own private education business on the back of 30 years working within schools to help support and empower other educational businesses."

As well as working with local educational businesses, Bernadette and her team at Ratcliffe Education Consultancy, including Seamus Miley and Chris Ratcliffe, also work with schools and higher education institutions offering support with planning, Ofsted inspections, training, curriculum design and mentoring and coaching.

£1m for health trust to help premature babies

Canal appeal hits £320k

Retiring LHCRT chairman David Dixon (right) receives a signed photograph and a hand-painted flowerpot from Trust President Eric Wood

A CAMPAIGN to raise £1 million to build a canal tunnel under the Cross City railway line in Lichfield has reached almost a third of its target.

The David Suchet Tunnel Vision appeal was officially launched in January and has already reached £320,000.

Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust financial director Bob Williams announced the news at the trust's AGM at Park View Centre in Brownhills.

LHCRT is restoring the Lichfield Canal, from Ogley Junction to Huddlesford, and the Hatherton Canal from Calf Heath to Wyrley Grove.

The meeting was also told of the decision by chairman David Dixon, one of two directors to retire by rotation under the trust's constitution, not to seek re-election, while company secretary Godfrey Eland agreed to stand again. Christine Bull was elected the new chairperson at the full board meeting.

Meanwhile, a number of residents took part in a two-mile return walk organised by the trust to see for themselves the work carried out by the group.

THE lives of premature babies could be improved after health chiefs in the region were awarded £1m for a national research project.

The grant from the Department for Health and the National Institute for Health Research is the largest ever given to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs Cannock Chase and New Cross Hospitals, and the biggest for neo-natal health service research in the West Midlands.

The study, called Opti-Prem, aims to improve neonatal service delivery for babies born between 27 and 31 weeks of gestation, by providing evidence-based data. The data will be used to develop national policy on how to best care for these babies.

The trust is leading the study, working with partners that include parent support group Bliss, University of Oxford, University of Leicester, Imperial College London and the Neo Natal Data Analysis Unit. It has been given a grant of £924,000.

Evidence

Clinical lead neonatologist for RWT, Tilly Pillay, who is the study's chief investigator, said: "Currently babies born between 27 to 31 weeks of gestation may be managed in either a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or a local neonatal unit (LNU).

"New evidence shows that care in a NICU, as opposed to a LNU, has benefit in terms of improved survival to discharge for those born at less than 26 weeks gestation; this is shaping policy for this group in England. In contrast, there is little evidence to guide care of the larger number of babies born between 27 and 31 weeks of gestation.

"Our research will determine which environment offers the best clinical outcomes for babies at each gestational age in this group. This is a step towards ensuring that these babies receive the right care in the right place at the right time."

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Swift cards rolled out for Chase Line

SWIFT rail cards have been rolled out to Cannock Chase in a boost to rail users in the district.

The West Midlands Combined Authority approved the move. It means people using Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley stations be able to use the scheme from next month. The cards are cheaper than paying with cash and are a much quicker and efficient way of boarding trains.

Cannock Chase District Council leader George Adamson said: "This makes it easier to use trains and will encourage more people to use them. This will help improve the district's connectivity with rest of the West Midlands."

The Chase Line is being electrified in a £100m scheme to improve services on the route further.

Fundraising casino night with a licence to thrill

CARS featured in the James Bond movie Day Another Day will be the star attraction at a fundraising night in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

Both the Jaguar XK8, on loan from the Jaguar Heritage Trust in Warwickshire, and the Aston Martin Vanquish, owned by Cannock businessman Fred Pritchard, will be on show at the casino night event on July 7 – and revellers can have their pictures taken with the vehicles.

The black tie event is being held at the Aquarius Ballroom, Anglesey Street, Hednesford, at 7 for 7.30pm, and will finish at 11pm.

Cost is £35 to include a glass of bubbly, food, casino 'money' and a disco. Additional play money can be exchanged for casino chips with a prize at the end of the evening for the winners of the most chips.

The night has been organised by Cannock Friends of St Giles. Chairman Michelle Renhard said: "This promises to be a fun evening, especially with our two 'special guests'. We aim to raise even more money to go towards our aim of paying for Christmas Day 2017 at Katharine House Hospice."

She added: "To get both both cars together is a real coup."

For tickets call 07708 662652 or email cfk2408@hotmail.com

The Aston Martin Vanquish which featured in Die Another Day

The Jaguar XK, loaned by the Jaguar Heritage Trust, Warwickshire

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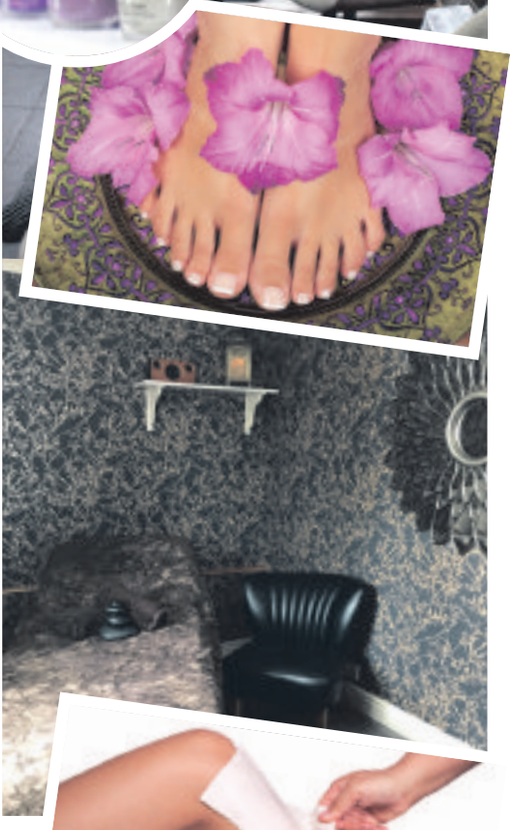

Tonic Day Spa is Cannock's leading beauty and holistic salon. Established for 18 years Tonic Day Spa offers a wide range of therapies from Acupuncture to Thai massage.

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Tonic Day Spa offers many relaxing treatments including Reflexology, Reiki and a large range of massage therapies - Hot Stones, Deep Tissue, Swedish, Hydrotherm, Four Hands and Thai.

Walk through the doors of the new Massage Hub and be engulfed with aromatherapy oils and tranquil music. All the rooms offer heated beds and colour therapy lighting in a calm and peaceful area designed to leave you feeling relaxed and stress free.

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Recently refurbished, the salon has an upbeat nail area offering manicures, pedicures, Calgel and Acrylic nails using the highest quality professional products that come with a guarantee.

Beauty

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Thousands to get taste of food festival in city

ALMOST 10,000 free tickets have been snapped up for City of Wolverhampton's inaugural Festival of Food and Drink.

The weekend festival is the flagship event of this year's Visit the City of Wolverhampton programme.

It will take place on Wulfruna Street, the Civic Centre car park, St Peter's car park and the pedestrian area outside the University of Wolverhampton's Ambika Paul building over the weekend of July 8-9, part of a programme of events taking place in the city between June 30 and July 16.

William Power, of Street Banquet and director of E11 Even Group, has staged events across the country, and will deliver the Festival of Food and Drink. He said: "As a local businessman born in the city, I am delighted to be involved in an event that will bring visitors to Wolverhampton."

Other highlights in the Visit the City of Wolverhampton programme include a free afternoon of horse racing at Wolverhampton Racecourse.

There will also be free entry to the Wolves Football Club Museum; free Super Saturday fitness activities at WV Active leisure centres and a free tour of Banks's Brewery.

Plus, there are discounted offers for an evening at Wolves Speedway, Grand Theatre productions, and food and drink promotions. For full details of the programme of events visit enjoywolverhampton.com

Police appeal for help on missing woman

POLICE are appealing for help in locating a Penkridge woman who has been reported missing.

Hannah Matthews, aged 25, was last seen at around 10.15am on Wednesday June 21, in her home village.

She was reported missing the following day. It is believed she could be in the Hampshire area.

Hannah is described as white, 5ft 4in tall with a slim build, blue eyes and pale complexion. Call Staffordshire Police on 101, quoting incident 661 of June 22.

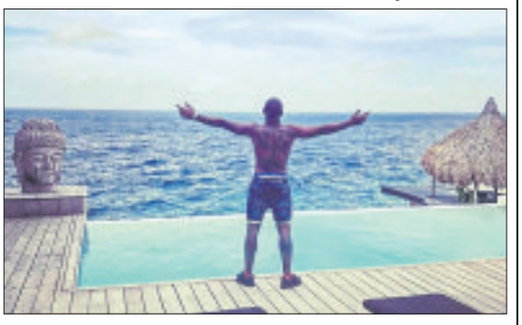
Albion keeper Ben Foster on a bicycle in Shanghai

Dave Edwards and his family in Greece

Villa's James Chester at the Grand Canyon

Wolves Lee Evans and his son on holiday in Greece

Thumbs-up from Erhun Oztumer on Crete



Leandro Bacuna takes in the sights at Curacao, near Aruba

On the ball for summer fun

PLAYERS might be back in pre-season training as new football season looms, but at the end of a long-hard previous campaign it was time to whisk off their nearest and dearest off on a well-earned holiday.

It would be difficult to find many of our local boys buying a Cornetto in Skegness or laying on a deckchair in the middle of Blackpool beach, though.

Instead they chose to re-charge their batteries in exotic locations far away from home, including the likes of Dubai and Greece.

It was a chance to enjoy some fun in the sun with their loved ones before preparations for 2017/18 get under way.

For Wolves players, Greece is a popular choice with both Dave Edwards and Lee Evans holidaying there. Captain Danny Batth opted for Club Med Kani in the Maldives.

West Bromwich Albion's Ben Foster was pictured having fun in Shanghai while Aston Villa's Alan Hutton, Gabby Agbonlahor and Scott Hogan have all travelled to Dubai.

Team-mate, defender James Chester chose to visit the Grand Canyon in Arizona and another Villan, Leandro Bacuna travelled to Curacao, near Aruba.

Walsall midfielder Erhun Oztumer picked Malia, Crete for his summer holiday.

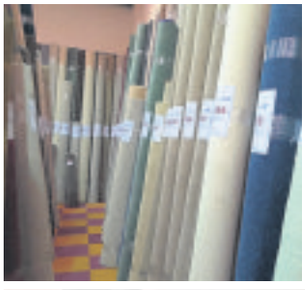
In a recent nationwide survey, it was revealed that the average Premier League footballer earns £2,438,275 a year, that's £46,889-a-week.

And with the TV money continuing to roll in, even the average Championship player can expect to take home £453,088 at not too shabby weekly rate of £8,728.

So it's no surprise that when footballers hang up their boots, they do so in style. Wolves legend Steve Bull, who made 474 appearances for the club between 1986 and 1999, said it was definitely a sign of the times.

"When I first started playing we would never have gone to some of these far away places because we weren't paid as much as players are now.

"It's just how times have changed. I used to go to Turkey and towards the end I would go to the Caribbean."



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Raucous Mod musical is pulling no punches

Sha la la la legends the Small Faces recalled in touring Mod musical All Or Nothing, which came to Wolverhampton

All Or Nothing, Wolverhampton Grand

THE golden age of pop and rock, the 1960s, is being relentlessly plundered for musicals since the success of Jersey Boys, which was the story of The Four Seasons.

We've had recent musicals drawing on The Beatles, The Kinks, 60s soul and new shows based on Dusty Springfield and Cilla Black are on the way.

All Or Nothing looks at the story of the Small Faces, sawn-off East End geezers who had a slew of hits in the mid-60s and have remained favourites among the Mod fraternity for their raw R&B sound and playful Cockney psychedelia.

The story follows the usual arc of mates forming a band, getting ripped off by management and finally falling apart amid artistic differences, exacerbated by drink and drugs.

The story of the Small Faces has an added element of tragedy given the deaths in the 1990s of the band's songwriters, frontman Steve Marriott in a fire and bassist Ronnie 'Plonk' Lane from multiple sclerosis.

The show is obviously a labour of love for actress and writer Carol Harrison, herself an East Ender (in real life and on TV) who remembers the original Mod scene.

She also gives herself a meaty role as Marriott's ambitious mom and the final scene in which she confronts her self-destructive son is powerful stuff.

Chris Simmons plays the older, booze-soaked Marriott, haunting the stage and popping in and out of the action to make wry comments about his younger self. The show doesn't gloss over the casual sexism of the era – all girls are birds or 'a sort' – and the language is as raucous as the R&B.

Where the show really takes off are the gig scenes with the band, including Samuel Pope as the young Marriott and Stanton Wright as Lane, capturing the flavour of the gritty intensity of the Small Faces.

Judging by the age group of the audience, and the ranks of multi-mirrored scooters outside the theatre, All Or Nothing has found its audience.

Leon Burakowski

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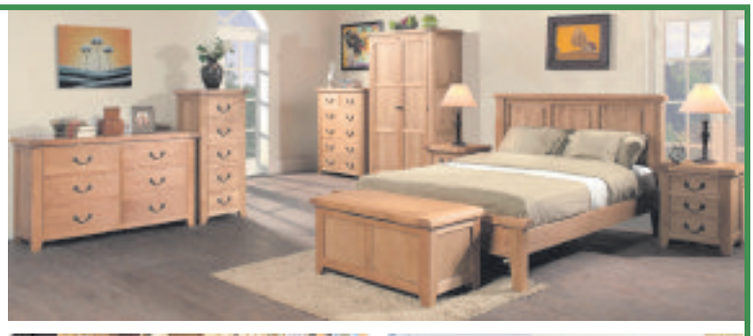

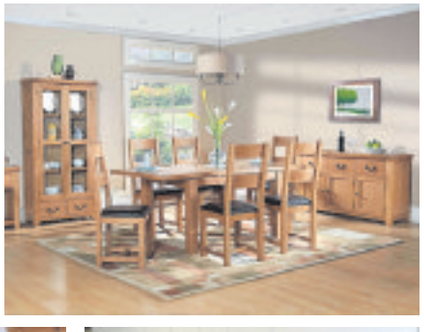

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CRAZY DAISY

If your looking to revamp your wardrobe, accessorise your home or buy that someone special a gift then pay a visit to, Crazy Daisy. Crazy Daisy stocks a wide variety of high-end high street fashion labels with typically 50% off the regular High Street price. There is a magnificent range of ladies clothing, bags, jewellery, scarfs, shoes and accessories. So whether you're after a glamorous outfit for that special occasion, or just want to treat yourself to some new additions to your wardrobe then Crazy Daisy has everything from Casualwear to Evening-wear in sizes 6-22 and definitely worth a visit.

The huge Home and Giftware section is outstanding for both value and quality, a wide selection of brands such as Village Candle, Ashley & Burwood, and Splosh are amongst the impressive range on offer. So if your looking for a key piece in one of your rooms or just browsing for a gift then Crazy Daisy will surely impress.

Unlike many discount clothes retailers Crazy Daisy is very much like any other high street store - there's no rummaging through mixed rails to find the right item or design, all items are available in all sizes from 6-22 and presented as you would find in any major department store. The home and gift section has a shabby sheek feel to it and you will me marvelled at the displays and extensive range of items available again to suit all pockets and tastes.

The interior of the store is extensively fitted out to a very high standard to offer customers a relaxing shopping experience. There are stylish dressing rooms so you can try on all your potential purchases in comfort. The knowledgeable team who are all local staff have a wealth of experience all having many years experience in the clothing and home retail sectors, they are on hand and happy to help with any queries and to ensure you make the most of your shopping experience at Crazy Daisy.

- Crazy Daisy is located next to Spec Savers in Cannock Shopping Centre, Cannock. Phone 01543 504121

Please LIKE and SHARE our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/mycrazydaisy

SPECSAVERS

Members of staff at Specsavers Audiologists in Cannock are thanking local residents for their generosity following a day of fundraising during National Deaf Awareness Week (15-21 May).

Specsavers stores across the country showed their support for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People by hosting a fundraising extravaganza that encouraged locals to donate to the cause.

The team pledged to raise £100 to sponsor a hearing dog puppy, but far exceeded its fundraising target, collecting more than £250 for the charity. The sponsorship funds will go towards training two puppies, which will then be paired with deaf people to support them in their everyday life.

Store director Claire Blandford said: "We had a fantastic day in store. As well as a raffle, we held a cake sale and a guess the name of the puppy competition. We also invited customers to guess the number of sweets in a jar for a prize."

"Hearing Dogs is a wonderful charity, and we were absolutely delighted to welcome volunteers with dogs in during the day. Our customers loved seeing the dogs and chatting with their handlers, giving people a real insight into how these four-legged friends can make a huge difference."

Speaking about the importance of sponsoring a puppy, Chief Executive of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Michele Jennings commented: "The number of people with hearing loss in the UK is set to rise significantly in the future, so it is crucial that we meet the ever-increasing demands for the life-changing benefits of hearing dogs.

Claire added: "I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who visited us in store on the day and helped us raise more than £250 for such a worthy charity."

Specsavers Audiologists and Hearing Dogs For Deaf People celebrated 10 years of partnership earlier this year.

For more information on how to donate please visit: www.hearingdogs.org.uk

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CHATWINS

With a year gone by already since a change a of ownership all at chatwin jewellers would like to thank their customers for their continued support. The time has gone by so quickly and we are so pleased that so many of our customers continue to visit us.

We continue to offer the same service for which chatwins has become so well known and respected. The addition of the on site workshop has proved very popular with customers who have been happy with the speedy turn around competitive prices and piece to mind that their item of jewellery wouldn't be leaving the premises. We have also had many customers using our refinishing and rhodium plating while you wait service.

This month we are pleased to announce the the arrival of watch brand Bering, a simple but stylish Danish brand of lady's and gentleman's watches ranging from £99.00 to £299.00, and jewellery brand sparkling jewels a range of pendants and bracelets with interchangeable semi precious gems ranging from £110.00 to £180.00 .

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As a thank you to our customers we are offering the attached voucher for use during your next visit. There is no expiry date.

HEAVENLY TREASURES

For many years I would trawl spiritual fayres up and down the country and find little treasures on individual stalls. My dream was to find one shop that sold everything spiritual so I could stand, admire, take in the energy and blissfully choose my goods. That dream became a reality when I opened Heavenly Treasures Cannock. We sell everything you can think of from Spiritual, Mythology, Fantasy, Old age therapies and a pamper section of bath bombs, essential oils and Hopi ear candles, to Tarot and Angel card readings, chakra realignment, and a wealth of healing crystals plus so much more. We are an official Nemesis Now stockist and we run a savings scheme where you can pay instalments for your goods. Spreading Love and Positivity throughout Cannock and surrounding areas.

RETRO HAIR

Retro Hair is a themed salon, the only one of its kind in the area, making it stand out from the rest. They have recently had a re-furb to celebrate their 2nd successful year in business.

Louise and her team have over 20 years of experience, having won several awards from Bridal, Sexy Hair, to name a few, see our 5* reviews for yourself and check us out on Facebook with before and after pictures.

Coming soon to Retro Hair -

VIP Retro late opening once a month until 10pm, for Hen Parties, Birthday Parties, any party.

Have your hair styled while listening to the latest house and a variety of music, bring your own alcohol. Just perfect before you head off on your night out.

Louise the salon owner would like to thank all her loyal as well as her new and existing clients, and not forgetting Natasha and Elise for all their hard work.

Natasha is a level 3 stylist and advanced colour technician specializing in balayage – the hottest new hair tend, root stretch and colour corrections.

Elise a Level 2 stylist has a promotion running presently until the end of September offering 50% off blow dries and colours

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Heavenz Desserts Restaurant & Delivery has arrived in Cannock. An exciting new dining experience, from an idea that has been refined for the last 5 years. Using only the finest high quality ingredients from around the world, we're passionate about delivering the highest quality of customer service and an astonishing array of Waffles, Crepes, Shakes and Coffee. That's not all we do, so why not take a look at our menu online at heavenzdesserts.co.uk or visit us in store for desserts you can only dream of. Delivery times, Mon-Thur 17:00-23:00, Fri 17:00-00:00, Sat 11:00-00:00, Sun 12:00-23:00/

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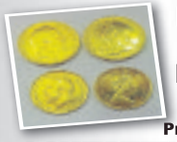

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What's on... and where

Events in Sandwell are as follows (free entry unless stated)

FRIDAY 14 JULY:
Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich, 12 noon – Julian Stringle Quartet
Wednesbury Library, 7pm – The Cigar Box Guitar Show with Chickenbone John
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – The Whiskey Brothers (£5)
SATURDAY 15 JULY:
Blackheath Library, 11.30am – Ukulele Taster Session with Pete Williams
Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, 12noon – Djangos Castle (Spain)
Sandwell Park Farm, West Bromwich, 2pm – Cyril et Leila Duclos (France)
Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury, 7pm – Cyril et Leila Duclos (France)
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Mike David Band (£5)
SUNDAY 16 JULY:
Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, 1pm – Chase Jazzmen
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 2pm – The Windsor Boys (£5)
Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, 2pm – Sauce City Jazz Band
MONDAY 17 JULY:
Great Bridge Library, 7pm – Richard Heath and Buzby Bywater
Tuesday 18 July
Cradley Heath Library, 7pm – Roy Forbes
Perry Hill Tavern, Oldbury, 8.45pm – Old Comrades Jazz Band
WEDNESBURY 19 JULY:
Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, 7pm – Sauce City Jazz Band
West Bromwich Central Library, 7pm – Sandwell Youth Jazz Orchestra with The TCS Blues Band
Thursday 20 July
Great Barr Library, 7pm – Blue Silk
Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, 7pm – All That Jazz Dance Workshop
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Ricky Cool and The In Crowd (£5)
FRIDAY 21 JULY:
Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich, 12noon – Sarah Barnwell Quartet
Lightwoods Park, Bearwood, 7pm – Great Birmingham Trombone Company
West Bromwich Central Library, 7pm – Digby Fairweather Quartet
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Emma Jonson (£5)
SATURDAY 22 JULY:
Blackheath Library, 11.30am – Pete Williams: Meet The Uke
Manor House, West Bromwich, 2.30pm – Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (France)
Blackheath Library, 7pm – Sheila Waterfield
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (France) (£5)
SUNDAY 23 JULY:
Oak House, West Bromwich, 1pm – Simon Spillett Quartet
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 2pm – The Small Changes (£5)
Keep up to date on events in Sandwell at www.discoversandwell.co.uk

The Birmingham Trombone Company will be performing

Top trumpeter Digby Fairweather

Midland-based jazz stalwarts Ricky Cool and the In Crowd

One of the stars, boogie-woogie specialist Emma Jonson

Guitarist Pere Soto, of Django's Castle

Councillors Steve Eling and Richard Marshall with musicians and organisers

Swinging in with great jazz

TOP musicians will be sharing the joy of jazz in Sandwell as the borough teams up with a major international festival.

The newly-renamed Birmingham, Solihull & Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 will see around 30 performances across Sandwell's six towns.

Libraries, museums, parks, Sandwell Arts Café, Windsor Theatre Bar and other venues hosting events from July 14 to 23. From homegrown UK talent including the legendary Digby Fairweather Quartet and boogie woogie pianist Emma Jonson to stars from France and Spain, there's a real mix of music.

Dymanic singer Roy Forbes, singer-songwriter Judy Blu and blues two-piece The Whiskey Brothers are among the many highlights.

Sandwell Youth Jazz Orchestra perform with The TCS Blues Band at West Bromwich Central Library; the Great Birmingham Trombone Company play at newly-restored Lightwoods Park; and Les Zauto Stompers de Paris promise to set the bar high (and loud) with shows at the Manor House, West Bromwich, and Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "We're very excited to be teaming up with Birmingham and Solihull in this popular and well-established festival, now in its 33rd year."

Councillor Richard Marshall, the council's cabinet member for leisure, added: "Our libraries and museums staff have built up a great relationship with the festival over the years, hosting a number of events.

"We're thrilled to be making it official this year by getting even more involved, putting Sandwell firmly on the music map.

"Joining with Birmingham and Solihull, we're making up a trio to entertain the whole region this summer, as well as visitors from around the world. There's a wide range of high quality acts performing in Sandwell and the vast majority of events are free entry."

Festival director Jim Simpson said: " Libraries, museums and parks across the borough have played an increasingly significant part in staging performances that have entertained residents and visitors alike. It was a logical next step for Sandwell to become fully involved."

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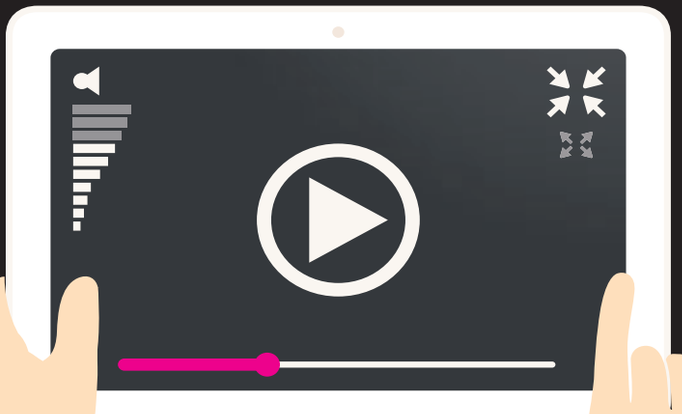

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Commissioner in call for removal of tax cap

STAFFORDSHIRE Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis has asked the Government to consider removing or raising the cap on the level of council tax determined by PCCs, to bolster policing at the most local level.

"I've not called on government for any more funding for policing since being elected in November 2012," he said.

"I've coped with budget reductions and taken the view that what was already there could be spent better. My office has worked closely with Staffordshire Police to achieve better use of the money, which is why here, neighbourhood policing numbers were 434 in 2013 and are 440 now with no change to response officers.

"However, the world we are now living in, especially post the Manchester and London terrorist attacks, means it is not credible that current budgets can maintain the increased levels of police resources required for what is likely to be a long period in Staffordshire and, I'm sure, elsewhere."

Boosting

Mr Ellis has frozen the council tax people pay locally towards policing in Staffordshire for four years out of his five years in office, but believes removing the cap now could help in the current debate around boosting police resourcing at the most local level.

He wants to see the current cap of two per cent on the policing part of the council tax scrapped or at least increased because of the current environment and threats.

"I have written to the Home Secretary to suggest she considers this proposal around local funding for policing," said Mr Ellis.

Mr Ellis also emphasised this would also bring local accountability for the level of reserves held which varies across the country.

"Where Commissioners still hold large reserves, these could be utilised ahead of making extra increase to council tax and that can be done in a more transparent way.

"This is an option still open to many PCCs now, as there can be little doubt we've reached that rainy day. But we also need that added flexibility to increase the precept."

Album anniversary show

Robin Parsons performs as Michael Jackson at the Prince of Wales

AN award-winning show celebrating 30 years since the release of Michael Jackson's Bad album is coming to Cannock tomorrow (Friday).

Forever Jackson will be at the Prince of Wales Centre, Church Street, with Robin Parsons as Jackson.

Bad sold more than half a million copies within five days of its UK release in 1987. It reached number one in 25 countries and sold around 45 million copies in total. Five of its songs topped the UK charts, and the supporting live tour grossed £100 million.

Featuring will be The Way You Make Me Feel, Man in the Mirror, Smooth Criminal and Another Part of Me as well as the title track.

Producer Pete Tobit, of GRT Entertainments, said: "Forever Jackson captures the moment with superb musicianship."

Call the theatre on 01543 578762 to book tickets.

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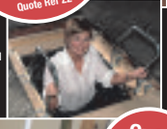

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Home comforts inspire author's debut novel

A WRITER now living in Singapore is using her Midlands roots as her inspiration.

The debut novel of Jo Furniss, All The Little Children, which will be published in September and is a thriller set in both Birmingham and Shropshire.

Jo spend a decade working as a broadcast journalist for the BBC, working for some time at Pebble Mill, before she 'gave up the glamour of night shifts to become a freelance writer and serial expatriate.'

Since leaving the UK in 2002 to follow her husband's job, she has lived in Switzerland and Cameroon and is now living in Singapore with her family. They still have a house in Newport, Shropshire, as their base in the UK.

As a journalist, she has worked online outlets and magazines such as Monocle, The Economist, Business Traveller, Expat Living (Singapore) and Swiss News. Jo has also edited books for a Nobel Laureate and the Palace of the Sultan of Brunei.

Journalist turned author Jo Furniss

The front cover of the debut novel

Edited

In 2015 she founded www.SWAGlit.com – an online literary magazine for writers in Singapore. Now she has moved into the world of fiction with this debut novel.

She said: "All the Little Children is a dark thriller about a mother who is forced to protect her children in the aftermath of a disaster. The novel is aimed at a "book club" readership, exploring issues to do with modern motherhood."

The book has already been described by a Wall Street Journal reviewer as 'a terrifyingly realistic story of survival and resilience.

Jo said: "The action starts in South Shropshire. The locations are mostly fictionalised, but I have in mind the area around Craven Arms – the Shropshire Hills. It should be quite recognisable to people from the area. There are also key scenes in Birmingham. I moved to the Midlands for university (Stoke) then stayed to work (BBC in Stoke and Birmingham) and married someone from the area, so Shropshire has become our home base."

As well as drawing on her local knowledge for the book she looked to her own experiences of motherhood.

On writing the book she said: "I started my career at the BBC, which demands many styles of writing. I dabbled with fiction too, but didn't prioritise it until I took an MA in professional writing in 2012. One short story I wrote as an exercise struck me as having the potential to be a novel – I expanded it to be my final project and eventually it morphed into All the Little Children.

"It's been a long road to publication and I've attended courses, workshops and writer groups. As well as the nuts and bolts of writing, there are two key skills I learnt: you must be disciplined and you must be open to feedback. In that respect, starting as a journalist was good grounding. I've always seen writing as a job and, of course, you have to turn up and do your job even when you don't feel like it!"

Jo is now working on her second novel to be released next year and using her experiences as an ex-pat.

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Birds are a favourite subject – here, a sedge warbler

Neal McIntosh will show work in Hednesford

A deer is in focus is this snap called 'Chilled'

A scorpion fly captured by the photographer

'Demoiselle' is one of Neal's wildlife images

Loving life through a lens

NATURE photographer Neal McIntosh has brought his trusty second-hand camera out for the summer ahead of an exhibition of his work in Cannock later this year.

Images seen here are some of the first magical shots taken by the 52-year-old, of Stafford, who has seen his work gain national interest over the last three years.

His work was one of six to get a 'highly commended' accolade in a nature photography competition which received more than 100,000 entries. He has also had his own exhibition in the Museum of Cannock Chase, in Valley Road, Hednesford, with another lined up on October 23, as well as making great connections within the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

The father-of-one's love of photography came 'out of the blue' when he decided to buy a second-hand Fujifilm Bridge camera in 2015.

His latest snaps, taken over Radford Bank, focus on insects and the little things people often miss but are right in front of their eyes.

Mr McIntosh's pictures vary from colourful butterflies and insects flying between plants, to birds gracing the Staffordshire countryside.

Versatile

However, as a versatile photographer he also enjoys focusing on landscapes. He said: "Capturing pictures of insects fascinates me because there is so much detail that people miss. My work has gathered quite a lot of attention over the last couple of years. If my photographs can make somebody stop and appreciate the world around them just that little bit more then my job is done."

Mr McIntosh, who shares his work through the Facebook group Argazki Mac, is in the process of putting together his own professional website.

However, none of this would have happened if he hadn't stumbled upon his beloved camera after returning from working in Spain back in 2015.

He added: "It came out of the blue for me really, I brought a camera from Tesco that I couldn't get friendly with. "I took it to Cash Converters and got back pretty much what I paid for it, when I saw the Fujifilm Bridge on my way out.

"I thought 'why not?' and haven't looked back since.

"I am looking forward to showcasing and I am glad to have been given the opportunity to do so."

To view his work visit www.facebook.com/argazkimac

52 addressess on ambulance service blacklist

DOZENS of homes in Staffordshire and the Black Country are blacklisted by West Midlands Ambulance Service over fears of paramedics' safety.

Police escorts are required for ambulance staff visiting 52 addresses in the West Midlands which have been flagged up as 'dangerous places'. They include properties in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Wyre Forest and Staffordshire.

The addresses become blacklisted on the back of reports by paramedics from previous visits. Reasons range from dangerous dogs, attacks on staff and verbal abuse.

Letters are written to the addresses where possible, and they are reviewed regularly by ambulance bosses.

The number of addresses in each postcode came from a Freedom of Information Act request sent in to the service.

The number of blacklisted addresses has fallen from 2015 when there were 79. But in 2011 there were just 11.

The figures come as attacks on ambulance staff continue to rise.

Service employees have been victims of 525 verbal assaults and 362 physical assaults for the current financial year.

Verbal assaults are up from 473 between April 2015 and March 2016 and 398 the previous year. Physical assaults have increased from 298 between April 2015 and March 2016 and 231 the previous year.

Arrests are made in a day of justice

MORE than 50 arrests were made in a day of justice carried out by Staffordshire Police.

Around 90 officers were committed to finding suspects wanted in connection with a variety of offences across the force area as part of Operation Justice. Offences ranged from cocaine supply to shoplifting.

Over a 24-hour period, following early morning knocks at 4am, 58 people were arrested and six held voluntary interviews.

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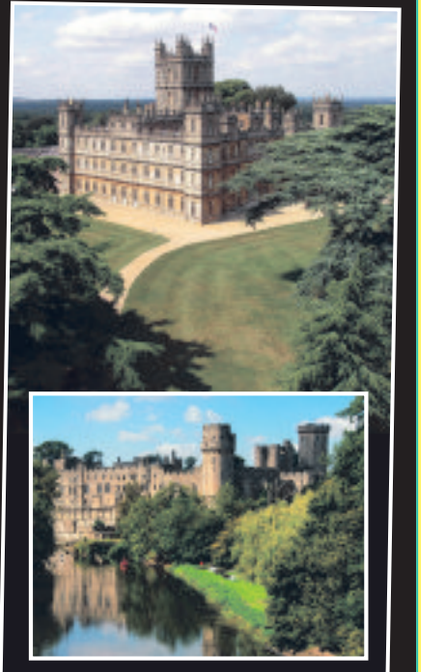

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All Rise! Antony in Grand stage thriller

He's best known as the boy band singer who enjoyed hits with Too Close, All Rise and Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word. But before Antony Costa was scoring number one hit singles with the all-conquering Blue he was in fact, a child actor.

One of his earliest roles was a pupil in Steven Moffat's sitcom Chalk and he then went on to appear in the BBC's Grange Hill.

Having surfed the waves of the Blue reunion in recent years, Antony is returning to his roots. He's treading the boards in theatre, starring in Ruth Rendell's A Judgement In Stone. From Monday until July 8, he'll line up alongside a starry cast at Wolverhampton's Grand, featuring Andrew Lancel, Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter, Deborah Grant, Shirley Anne Field and Ben Nealon.

"I'm thrilled," he says. "It's been really, really good. We've had some fantastic reviews and it's a great cast of people."

The Bill Kenwright-produced show builds on the phenomenal decade-long success of The Agatha Christie Company. It is a new production adapted from one of the most celebrated works of the writer often hailed as the successor to Agatha Christie.

The action centres around Eunice, who struggles to fit in. When she joins a wealthy family as their housekeeper the very reason for her awkwardness, long hidden and deeply buried, leads inexorably to a terrible tale of murder in cold blood – on Valentine's Day.

The brilliant plot unravels a lifetime of deceit, despair and cover-ups which, when revealed, brings a shocking revelation almost as grizzly as murder itself.

Antony stars alongside former Corrie star Andrew Lancel

THRILLER

Antony loves it. "There's something not quite right with Eunice and no one can see why. But I think what Ruth Rendell did so well was to more or less go on the psychology side of things. Why do these people do it? Why do they murder and everything else? It's a great show, a very fast-moving thriller and people are with us from start to finish."

Though Antony started his career as a child actor, he admits he still has much to learn. And featuring alongside some of the best in the business – like Andrew Lancel – has been inspiring. He's learned much from old hands of the stage and hopes it will hold him in good stead.

"There are a lot of old school people in the show, but for me I'm always learning. If you stop learning, that's the time to quit. For now, I'm loving every minute of it. I hope the people of Wolverhampton do too.

"The thing is that I've always acted. I was a trained actor as a kid. My life went a different direction when I was 18. I loved pop videos and I was so interested in that aspect. When we were in Blue, it wasn't just about turning up, singing your song and going. I wanted to do more. So when this came up and Bill Kenwright called, I jumped at the chance. It gives me another string to my bow."

For a man who's spent most of his life in the spotlight, Antony is enjoying the chance to be out of it. He's very much part of the supporting cast, rather than a lead player, and feels the pressure is off. He can relax into his character and watch as experienced pros lead the line.

He also enjoys the fact that the audience are going to see a play – rather than see him sing. He knows it's about his character, rather than him.

"This gives me a new lease of life. I'm always learning. Nine out of 10 people at a pop concert are there to see me sing. That's why they come. It's about me, rather than the show. But this is the opposite. It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job is simple – I just need to give 110 per cent."

Some things don't change, of course, and Antony is back on the road with the show, just as he was in Blue. He's travelling the length of the country – though his visit to Wolverhampton might be punctuated by an important arrival.

"I love being on the road and I've done it since I was 18. But it will be a weird week in Wolverhampton because my baby is due. If I get the call, I've got to go. For the first couple of days, I'll be there. But then the baby is due on the July 6. So we'll just have to see what happens. But I'm looking forward to the Grand Theatre. I've never been before."

And once A Judgement In Stone is done – and he's finished changing the nappies – he's keen to come back. Antony is open to more stage work and hopes it'll lead to TV acting roles.

> *It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job's simple*

"I want to do more stage work and if TV arose I'd jump on the chance. It all depends on timing or whether the part's right. You never know what's in the audience watching you. But I love it mate, I absolutely love it. The cast getting applause at the end is amazing.

"When we used to do a Blue tour, people booked tickets to see us which we were thankful for. But it's different now. I could sing a couple of lines of a song to a Blue crowd and they'd cheer. But for me, I like to get into the depth of a character. I like to be someone else for two and a half hours."

Not that Antony's acting ambitions spell the end of Blue. They'll be back every now and then.

"Listen mate, you know, if there's gigs coming up with the boys and the climate's right, we'll do a few shows. If there's an album and it's right, we'll do it. Bu it love being on stage right now and I need this for me. I don't want to live with regret because I didn't do this. You got to be selfish and do something yourself once in a while."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Scene from Curious Incident...

Curious hit play returns to wow audiences again

Award-winning play The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time returns to the West Midland next week for a week-long run in Birmingham.

The second national tour of the Olivier and Tony Award-winning production will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

Earlier this month the play adapted from Mark Haddon's best seller by Simon Stephens ended its run in the West End after nearly five successful years.

The National Theatre production directed by Marianne Elliott picked up a record-breaking seven Oliver Awards and has been seen by more than a million people in London.

A delirious and dazzling blend of maths, technology, drama and humour, it tells of teenager Christopher Boone, who has an extraordinary brain that means he is brilliant at maths but ill-equipped to deal with everyday life. His investigation into the killing of a neighbour's dog turns his life upside down.

Playing the role of Christopher in Birmingham will be Scott Reid, recently seen in BBCTV comedy Still Game.

National Theatre producer Kash Bennett said: "We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception from audiences around the UK and Ireland when we toured The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time in 2014-15, playing to almost 400,000 people, and are delighted to take this beautiful and inventive show to new venues and make a return to others."

See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Focus on daring shows in festival

BE Festival, Birmingham's summer festival of international performing arts, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

It is a celebration that showcases daring new theatre, dance and circus from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece and beyond.

Organisers say that in the wake of the Brexit referendum, organisations such as BE Festival has a greater responsibility to maintain bridges with the wider artistic community.

Highlights include Asingleline, from Germany, an outdoor project that will literally stretch a single two-kilometre line of red tape from Ladywood over parks and roads into Birmingham Rep.

British Enough?, from Uzbekistan and the UK, is a new piece of immersive theatre that plays with the idea of the British Citizenship Test. Anatomia Publica, from Spain and France, is a story of strange relationships in the aftermath of war told through movement.

Highlights in the main evening theatre programme include Portraits and Short Stories by Dutch company Panama Pictures, who combine a daring use of ropes, trampolines, and acrobatics. Odc Ensemble's show Revolt Athens is a unique city guide that looks at the living and breathing reality of Greece's capital.

Out of the competition of the main festival, Animal Religion from Spain present their show Indomador, pictured, in which a circus ringmaster performs daring feats, whilst attempting to control his inner animal, a comical yet punchy comment on identity.

Miguel Oyarzun, co-director of BE Festival, said: "Here, in the inclusive city of Birmingham, the multifaceted cultural identities and creativity of a continent will once again be celebrated."

There is a whole festival pass for £100 (£60 without dinner) or day/evening passes for £22, £14 or £12 concessions. See www.befestival.org or www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Kemp converses and Decker rocks

An Audience with Martin Kemp on Tuesday evening at the Robin 2 in Bilston includes an hour-long question and answer session at the seated event. The 55-year-old, pictured, found fame as a pop heartthrob in Spandau Ballet in the 1980s, played EastEnders villain Steve Owen and was recently a judge on talent show Let It Shine.

Another '80s icon, Carol Decker, fronts her band T'Pau in concert at the Robin 2 on July 6.

See therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Just Floyd ready for a chilled-out Sunday

Fans of Pink Floyd can chill out to an afternoon of their favourite sounds when tribute band Just Floyd play at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at 1pm on Sunday, focussing on the era of Dark Side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here and The Wall.

The same venue hosts Irish blues band Crow Black Chicken on Monday and a four-band bill of Midlands metal on Wednesday with Electus, Wakedown, Crows & Crosses and Michael Pritchard. More home grown hard rock can be heard on Saturday at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton when Our World Below top a five-band bill also featuring Master's Call, My Brother The Wolf, Rustlung and Enemy Of Atlas.

On Sunday there is contemporary Nashville country music at the Slade Rooms from duo Jon Stone and Kristy Osmunson, known as American Young.

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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 1

CHOICE

Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World (BBC2, 9pm)

Ken Loach, Joan Bakewell, Trevor Phillips, Michael Grace, Martha Kearney, Ed Balls, Lyse Doucet and Alex Crawford join Melvyn Bragg as he explores the extraordinary impact British television has made on the nation's culture since its first great unifying moment – the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Filmed at Bafta, Bragg and his interviewees highlight the way television has reflected and influenced Great Britain has a whole, challenging authority, redefining celebrity, and evolving the concept of democracy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 Doctor Who. Peter Capaldi's tenure as the Doctor draws close to its conclusion, as the Mondasian Cybermen rise. Not seen since the classic, pre-2005 series, the original Cybermen came from Mondas, "Earth's twin planet", and posed a fearsome threat to the Time Lord and his companions. Now, as these sinister cyborgs begin a new conquest, and the Doctor makes a final stand to protect a tiny band of humans from utter destruction. Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas also star as Bill and Nardole, Michelle Gomez reprises her role as Missy, while John Simm puts in an appearance as the Master. Last in the series.

7.30 Pitch Battle. Mel Giedroyc hosts the third heat of the choral music contest, as six more choirs and vocal groups battle for a place in the Grand Final. This week, young chamber choir Tring Park, musical theatre enthusiasts 16, a capella group Oxford Alternotives, classical quintet Vox-Xover, all-female pop outfit Vocalities, and Dublin barbershop chorus The Ramparts all seek to impress judges Gareth Malone, Kelis, and guest adjudicator Joe Jonas. Plus, Pitch Battle's resident music director Deke Sharon opens the contest with a musical mash-up.

9.00 Casualty. Sam steps down as medical director to take a more hands-on role in the ED, and a feisty patient pushes Dylan over the edge as he struggles to cope in the wake of Cal's death.

9.50 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.10 Film: Avengers Assemble. (2012) Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk join forces to defend Earth from an alien invasion. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.55 Film:** Carnival Story. (1954) **8.30 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** Peter O'Toole: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00 Film:** Kidnapped. (1960) Historical adventure, starring Peter Finch. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Flog It! The team visit Blackpool Tower Circus. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. Rachel de Thame investigates how gardeners can aid honey bee conservation. (R)

6.00 The Day the Dinosaurs Died. An expedition to determine if an asteroid strike 66 million years ago triggered a catastrophe that killed off the dinosaurs and wiped out 75 per cent of all life on Earth. (R)

7.00 Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World. Professor Doug Emlen examines how animals use their bodies as weapons, from elephants to rhinoceros beetles, assessing whether they are more than just instruments of blunt force. (R)

8.00 Manchester International Festival: Everyone Welcome. Lemn Sissay tours Manchester's biennial international arts festival, which features more than 60 new works by local and international artists.

8.30 Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

9.00 Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World. Melvyn Bragg is joined by celebrity guests as he explores the impact television has made on British culture since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

11.00 Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.

12.50 Film: The Deep. (2012) A trawler crewman swims to shore after his vessel capsizes, but is tormented by survivors' guilt. Fact-based drama, with Olafur Darri Ólafsson and Johann G Johannsson.

2.20 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.25 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. Coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.30** Little Big Shots US.

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.35 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Contestants Amy, Anthony and Abby join Stephen Mulhern to "see it and say it", as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

7.30 The Voice Kids. The junior version of the singing talent contest continues, as Emma Willis ushers more youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 to the stage for a chance at stardom. With the Blind Auditions now beyond their halfway point, the pressure is on for judges Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott to finish filling their teams ahead of the battle rounds.

9.00 Film: Quantum of Solace. (2008) James Bond sets out on a personal mission of vengeance as he pursues the secret criminal organisation Quantum. His search leads him to the head of an ecological corporation, who is plotting to orchestrate a coup in a Latin American country to get his hands on a precious natural resource. Spy thriller sequel, starring Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Gemma Arterton and Mathieu Amalric.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Rebound. Sean Fletcher hosts the quickfire quiz that tests the general knowledge of six contestants, who go head to head in a bid to walk away with a big cash prize. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.05** Motor Sport: Ypres Rally. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Autistic Gardener. Alan Gardner comes to the aid of two families in London that are seeking to transform their adjoining back gardens into one big playground for their children. Claire and Tim, and their neighbours Jess and Karl have four boys between them, and while they all agree the space should provide the kids with a safe space to play, Claire and Tim seek a romantic plot, while Jess and Karl would like to bring a touch of the Mediterranean to their home. Plus, Alan heads to Austin, Texas, where he finds an unusual source of inspiration for this project – in the form of a jumbo jet engine. Last in the series.

8.00 Film: Life of Pi. (2012) A writer interviews a man about the extraordinary events of his life. He describes his childhood in India, living in the zoo run by his father, and how the family and their animals were forced to relocate to Canada when he was a teenager. However, during the sea voyage, the ship sank and he was left adrift in a small boat with a ferocious tiger. Ang Lee's adventure based on Yann Martel's novel, starring Suraj Sharma and Irrfan Khan.

10.25 Film: Last Vegas. (2013) Four sixtysomething friends decide to relive their wild youth with a trip to Las Vegas. Comedy, with Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline.

12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. (R) **1.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Hunter is devastated by Neeta's decision. **3.15** Ackley Bridge. (R) **4.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.15** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **2.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. Comedians Des Clarke and Katy Brand present a selection of the internet's most popular videos featuring dogs, including one with a pooch dressed in a tarantula costume. (R)

7.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady seeks a would-be sweetheart for Arnold, who emigrated from Africa to Manchester, and served with the British Army in Afghanistan for nearly five years. Arnold's idea of a perfect date would involve a spin on the London Eye, and Paul gives three ladies a chance to woo the gentlemanly soldier. Meanwhile, finance director Gemma – also from Manchester – seeks an adventurous Prince Charming to settle down and start a family with. Plus, the host catches up with last week's couples, to find out whether that initial spark of attraction could develop into something more.

8.00 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.05 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows. A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. (R)

11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. (R)

11.55 Access.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Vampire Academy. (2014) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Britain and the Sea **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00 Film:** Kon-Tiki (2012) **10.50** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.50** Old Grey Whistle Test: 70's Gold **1.20** The Who at the Electric Proms **2.10** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **3.10** Close

ITV2

11.00 Take Me Out **12.10** You've Been Framed! Gold Harry's Favourites **1.10 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **3.10 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.00 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.50 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **12.45 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 Inspector Morse **1.55** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **3.50** Wycliffe **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage one. **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Big Fish Off **9.00 Film:** Eraser (1996) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Eraser (1996) **11.20 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.35** Tour de France Highlights **2.35** Counting Cars **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 The Goldbergs **1.55 Film:** Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Thor (2011) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.10** The Inbetweeners **4.05** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Hugo (2011) **3.25** Dunston Checks In (1996) **5.10** The Rewrite (2014) **7.20** Chronicle (2012) **9.00** Bad Neighbours (2014) A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen. **10.50** Extraterrestrial (2014) **12.55** Five Deadly Venoms (1978) **3.05** Close

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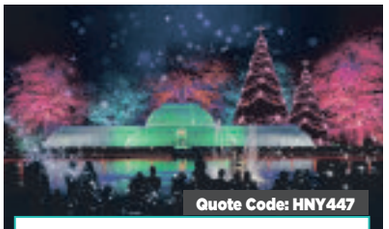

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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 2

CHOICE

George Best

George Best: All By Himself (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon.
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison meets a family making natural cordials and presses using their own elderflowers, before visiting Worcester Cathedral to catch a glimpse of its lesser horseshoe bats, thought to be the only urban population in the country. Adam Henson heads to the Peak District and explains why he has decided to send his beef cattle to an animal sanctuary in Norfolk rather than the slaughterhouse.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.
9.00 Poldark. A grain ship is raided by starving villagers, and George arranges a harsh punishment for the desperate peasants while throwing a lavish Christmas party to impress the local gentry. Caroline hears news that the Admiralty has arranged for the release of the British officers, but Ross is not convinced, lamenting the loss of Wheal Leisure to George, and having seen miners broken by the terms of their labour. Demelza gives birth to a daughter, and warns Morwenna against a relationship with Drake.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show. A filmed performance from the comedian's nationwide stand-up tour, combining stand-up comedy, sketches, songs and dance and featuring anecdotes ranging from flatulent first dates to socially inept children. (R)
11.30 The Week the Landlords Moved In. A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R)
12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** Wimbledon 2016 Review. **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **1.00** Athletics: World Championship Team Trials. Live coverage from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. **5.00** Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made. (R)
6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown. Part one of two. Return of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London, following those racing to complete the work in time for the first trains to run in May. Engineer Linda Miller and her team must battle ancient fault lines that threaten the Farringdon station site with flooding, while construction workers build innovative floating rail tracks directly under the Barbican Concert Hall. Julian Barratt narrates. (R)
7.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. (R)
8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A daredevil Tennessee cowboy and a fun-loving Welsh office worker – both heirs to their lucrative family businesses – trade places hoping to find a new perspective on their lives.
9.00 Film: George Best: All By Himself. (2016) Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism.
10.30 Mock the Week. (R)
11.05 White Gold. Vincent finds himself kicked out of his family home, and Lavender is drawn back into the world of rock and roll as he has his own career crisis. (R)
11.35 Film: Burke & Hare. (2010)
1.00 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Babushka. (R) **1.35** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.05** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.30 Film:** Hulk. (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana.
6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). Coverage of the showpiece match from Saint Petersburg Stadium in Russia. Brazil produced a fine performance in front of their own fans four years ago to lift the trophy after defeating then world and European champions Spain 3-0, with Fred scoring early goals in each half and player of the tournament Neymar also finding the net. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
9.30 The Loch. Craig Petrie becomes a suspect in both murders, and Blake assists in questioning him. However, he quickly turns the tables on the police and casts doubt on Leighton's innocence. Annie investigates his claims further, and her loyalty to Leighton is shaken when she discovers his alibi is a lie. Smilie tries to comfort Jonjo's father, but is rejected.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 Lethal Weapon. As Riggs' attachment to Karen Palmer deepens, so do his impulsive actions – a cause of further concern for Captain Avery. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R)
11.45 Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
12.40 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Oulton Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **2.30 Film:** Dante's Peak. (1997) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Homes by the Sea.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. Their architect has come up with an ambitious, experimental design that would see the whole property magically rise up with the flood waters. However, no one knows whether it will work, and the project soon becomes bogged down in the logistical challenges of bringing to fruition such a complex structure on a small island that is only accessible by a narrow footbridge. (R)
8.00 Dunkirk: The New Evidence. Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940.
9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. When a trade delegation from Mexico comes to Gilead, Offred discovers several shocking secrets. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she played in Gilead's inception. Drama based on the novel by Margaret Atwood and set in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian society in what was formerly part of the United States. Starring Elisabeth Moss and Yvonne Strahovski.
10.15 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.10 Film: Trance. (2013) Crime thriller, starring James McAvoy.
1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** The Last Leg. (R) **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.15** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Mr Men. **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.40** Wissper. (R) **6.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.10** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.25** Wissper. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Little Princess. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.40 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008) **4.40 Film:** 13 Going on 30. (2004) **5.40** 5 News Update. **5.45 Film:** 13 Going on 30. (2004)
6.30 Film: The Flintstones. (1994) Blue-collar caveman Fred Flintstone is promoted to manager and gets embroiled in an embezzlement plot. Live-action version of the cartoon comedy, with John Goodman and Rick Moranis.
8.05 That's So 1984. A look at the year that saw the Brighton hotel bombing, Torvill and Dean win gold at the Winter Olympics with their famous Bolero routine, the death of comedian Eric Morecambe and Virgin Atlantic Airways make its inaugural flight. Featuring hits by Black Lace, Cyndi Lauper, Sade and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.05 OMG. The story of a woman who has made several extreme changes to her body, including amputating a finger. Plus, people with large amounts of body piercing and tattoos.
11.05 Film: The Vow. (2012) A woman wakes up after a car crash with no memory of her husband, who tries to get her to fall in love with him again. Romantic drama, with Rachel McAdams.
1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Handmade in Japan: Samurai Sword **7.30** Handmade in Japan: The Kimono **8.00** Handmade in Japan: Pottery **8.30** Schönbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **10.00** Oink: Man Loves Pig – Storyville **11.20** Climate Change by Numbers **12.35** Darwin's Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species **1.35** Nature's Great Events **2.35** Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.15 The Voice Kids **12.45 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.30 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.45 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 The Darling Buds of May **12.40** Bertie and Elizabeth **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** The Booze Cruise **10.05** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Tour de France Live. **4.45** Hat-Trick Heroes **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** Fierce **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** The Football Mavericks **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30 Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00 Film:** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.45** Rude Tube **1.50** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) **1.00** The Parent Trap (1961) **3.35** Moomins on the Riviera (2014) **5.10** Evolution (2001) **7.20** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Monuments Men (2014) **11.20** Monsters (2010) **1.10** Bullhead (2011) **3.50** Close

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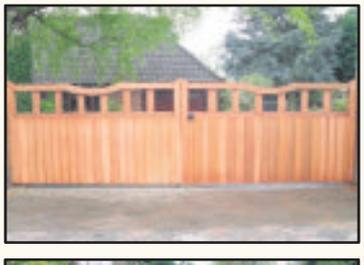

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PICK OF THE WEEK

It's no song and Dance for Charles in returning series

During an interview with the Metro in 2013, actor Charles Dance was asked about the public's perception of him as upper-class.

"It's a complete misconception – there's nothing aristocratic about me," he insisted.

"Some of it is down to how my face is put together. I'm not typecast to the extent that someone who has played the same character on a soap opera for 25 years would be."

But despite his protestations, the tall, sandy-haired actor doesn't deny he has made a career out of playing aristocratic and/or bureaucratic characters, mostly villains.

"I've earned a reasonably good living from it," he added.

Dance was born in Redditch, Worcestershire, in 1946 – the son of Eleanor (née Perks) and Walter Dance.

Growing up in Plymouth, he attended Widey Technical School for Boys in Crownhill and later attended The Leicester College of Arts (now known as De Montfort University), where he studied Graphic Design and Photography.

Dance developed a taste for the theatre by listening to two elderly actors who ran a pub in his Dover neighbourhood. He became a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company during the mid-to-late-1970s and was in many of their productions in London and Stratford.

Dance made his TV debut in 1974, in BBC mystery series Father Brown, but his big break came 10 years later when he played the role of Guy Perron in The Jewel in the Crown, an adaptation of Paul Scott's novels that also made stars of Geraldine James and Art Malik.

Since then, he has also starred in many other British TV dramas such as Edward the Seventh, Murder Rooms, Randall and Hopkirk, Rebecca, The Phantom of the Opera, Fingersmith and Bleak House (for which he received an Emmy nomination).

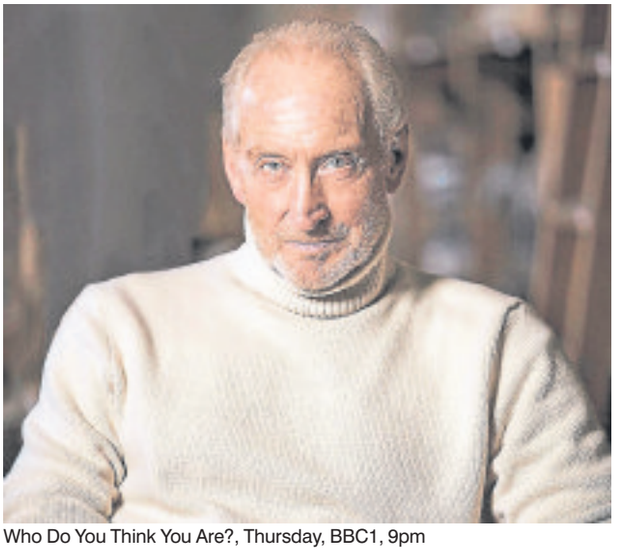
He also played Guy Spencer, the pro-Hitler propagandist, in Foyle's War, had an ongoing role as Dr Maltravers in ITV drama Trinity, made a guest appearance in BBC drama Merlin, and played a vainglorious version of himself in Jam & Jerusalem.

In 2010, he signed up to play Havelock Vetinari in Sky's adaptation of Terry Pratchett's Going Postal, before then securing what would be one of his most memorable roles – Tywin Lannister in HBO's hit fantasy series Game of Thrones.

As Dance says, the aristocratic world he tends to inhabit on screen is nothing like his own background, and we find out all about it as the new series of genealogy show Who Do You Think You Are? begins tonight.

Dance's mother Eleanor was an under-house parlour maid and he wants to find out if he comes from a long line of servants, or if he can uncover some grander origins.

The actor is also determined to learn about his engineer father.



Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Stalking Elizabeth, Channel 5, 3.20pm
After the death of her daughter, a woman tries to regain a sense of normality by returning to teaching. However, she is assigned a mentor who develops an unsettling obsession for her. Drama, starring Jes Macallan, Aaron Douglas and Nic Bishop. (2014)

TUESDAY
Presumed Dead in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager is invited to spend a holiday on a Pacific island with her stepmother, and seemingly drowns. She survives her brush with death and swims to shore, only to discover her stepmother may have arranged the accident. As she investigates, she uncovers a sinister conspiracy with links to her dead father. Thriller, starring Malese Jow. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
In the Dark, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman is blinded following an accident in which her husband and child are killed. She employs a nurse as a carer, only to discover he has developed a dangerous obsession with her, which turns violent as she begins to regain her independence. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm. (2013)

Begin Again, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
George Best: All By Himself, BBC2, 11.15pm
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism. (2016)

FRIDAY
Begin Again, BBC1, 11.05pm
A singer-songwriter is left cast adrift when her boyfriend leaves her after becoming a star. While performing in New York's East Village, she meets a record company executive whose career is in tatters, beginning a collaboration that turns both their lives around. Comedy drama, starring Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo. (2013)

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Betrayed Girls
BBC1, 8.30pm
The 2012 trial of nine Asian men who were found guilty of the grooming, rape and sex trafficking of teenage girls in Rochdale shocked the nation – and five years on, the case continues to cause outrage. In May, the BBC broadcast Three Girls, a powerful drama which explored how the girls were let down by the authorities. Now this feature-length documentary hears from the real people at the heart of the story. It includes testimony from the victims as well as those who spoke out for them.

TUESDAY
Life Behind Bars: Visiting Hour
Channel 4, 9pm
The UK's prison population is an at all-time high, with over 86,000 people behind bars – which suggests that there's also a growing number of people visiting jailed loved ones. Cameras have been given unprecedented access to the visiting room at HMP Low Moss, one of the largest maximum-security prisons in Scotland, to see how the inmates doing hard time can try to reconnect with the lives they once had, even if it's just for 60 minutes. Among the stories featured are that of Gary and Charley, who aren't letting a lack of a release date stand in the way of their wedding planning, while Mike receives a visit from his aging father, who he realises might not live to see him released. The programme also hears from wardens and staff about the importance of visiting hour.

WEDNESDAY
Joanna Lumley's India
ITV, 9pm
Despite being most people's idea of the quintessential English rose, Joanna Lumley was actually born in India during the last days of the Raj and both sides of her family called the country home for several generations. In her latest three-part series she returns to the land of her birth for a deeply personal journey. In tonight's first episode, Joanna travels from the very south of the country all the way to the foothills of the Himalayas. In Madurai, she explores the dazzling Meenakshi temple which comes alive at night with religious celebration, before going for a hair-raising motorcycle ride on the winding road to the Valparai Plateau. Later, she has an encounter with a female elephant and her calf, before exploring the world's biggest film studio complex, Tollywood, and finishing up four hundred miles north of Calcutta, in Sikkim, where her grandfather was stationed for many years.

Joanna Lumley's India, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Circus Kids: Our Secret World
Channel 5, 9pm
Some children don't have to run away to join the circus – they are born into it. This new three-part series ventures into a secretive and closely guarded world, steeped in centuries of tradition, to learn more about the lives of the young performers. It finds that while they may have freedoms that some other kids can only dream of, they also live at a demanding pace during the gruelling circus season, which runs from February to November. In this first episode, we meet 17-year-old stunt ride Peter, who is the son of a circus owner and struggles to understand why anyone would want to live in just one place, and twins Esmerelda and Scarlett, who are already the little stars of the big top at the age of just two.

FRIDAY
The Secret World of Posh Pets
ITV, 8pm
In Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Bryn sets out to breed over £2million-worth of falcons to sell to the super-rich Sheikhs and princes of the Middle East. High-earning city boy Zane sets out on a Bengal cat-breeding adventure, producing £1,000 kittens then reinvesting the proceeds in a super-rare domestic black panther. Meanwhile, having spent £4,000 on catering, dresses and miniature horse drawn carriages, Debbie can witness her Chihuahuas Honey and Joey tying the knot, in what is surely the doggy wedding of the year.

Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle
BBC1, 9pm
The comedian, actor, writer and director recalls an ambitious nationwide challenge for Comic Relief and discusses his involvement in an armed raid with chat show supremo Michael Parkinson.

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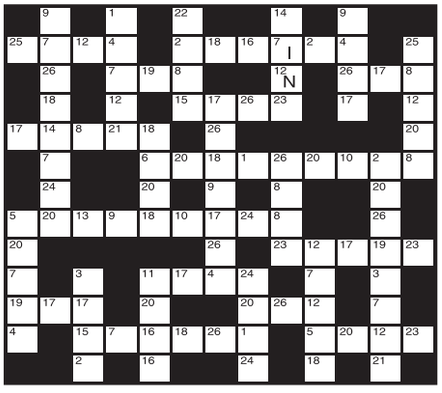
BRAIN GYM

No.436

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



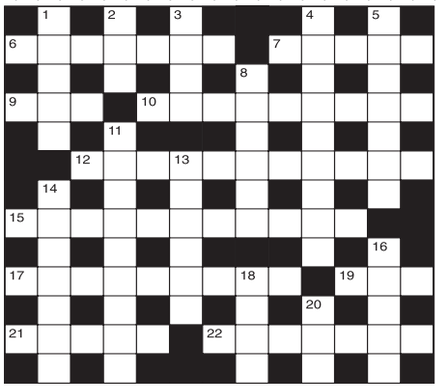
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7 I	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 N	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 T	2 C	3 B	4 M	5 Y	6 R	7 S	8 P	9 L	10 D	11 G	12 E	13 X
14 O	15 Z	16 K	17 I	18 H	19 J	20 A	21 F	22 Q	23 W	24 N	25 U	26 V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. New cadet or old soldier (7)
7. A patch put on a cuff, perhaps (5)
9. Company that was floated to avoid liquidation (3)
10. Nice trait, but somehow puzzling (9)
12. Doing very well at a job at the Mint? (6,5)
15. This side gains nothing but pleasure from its activities (7,4)
17. Having the look of a powerful flyer (5-4)
19. Come to a conclusion and object (3)
21. Order a form (5)
22. Distributors can't when supplies do (4,3)

Down

1. Assumes it's durable (5)
2. Water that is about a hundred degrees lower than steam (3)
3. It may be caused by a pin lying around (4)
4. Those on this roll may make their mark (9)
5. Relatives unite as in a crisis (7)
8. A girth properly adjusted (6)
11. False description of atheists? (9)
13. Accustoms user in new process (6)
14. Can I provide a friendly solution? (7)
16. Not appropriate, being excessive (5)
18. Big lake up country (4)
20. Father consumes eastern vegetable (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Lead (7)
7. Moist (5)
9. Breach (3)
10. Lying down (9)
12. Deceive (11)
15. Piercing (11)
17. Antagonist (9)
19. Aged (3)
21. Lure (5)
22. Versus (7)

Down

1. Fracture (5)
2. Perform (3)
3. Inactive (4)
4. Riotous (9)
5. Worthiness (7)
8. Apex (6)
11. Course (9)
13. Powerful (6)
14. Rally (7)
16. Embrace (5)
18. Brink (4)
20. Strike (3)

Sudoku

1			3		9			4
				5				
6		9			8	5		3
	2			9			8	
4			5		2			6
	8			7	3		1	
5		2				3		1
				2				
8	9		6		1		5	2

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	3	2	4	8	6	1	5
2	8	1	7	6	5	4	9	3
5	6	4	3	1	9	8	7	2
9	1	6	5	3	7	2	8	4
8	4	5	9	2	1	3	6	7
3	7	2	6	8	4	9	5	1
1	2	7	8	9	3	5	4	6
6	5	8	4	7	2	1	3	9
4	3	9	1	5	6	7	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Flight of steps; 8 Officers; 9 Ions; 10 Hunger; 12 Overdo; 14 Ascend; 16 Thrash; 18 Star; 20 Snapshot; 22 Have a good mind. Down: 1 All fours; 2 Egging; 3 Stye; 4 Offshoot; 5 Strike; 6 Open; 11 Redesign; 13 Discount; 15 Earner; 17 Resume; 19 Tear; 21 Amok.
QUICK - Across: 7 Recrimination; 8 Distance; 9 Easy; 10 Lament; 12 Indeed; 14 Reform; 16 Relate; 18 Chic; 20 Taciturn; 22 Perpendicular. Down: 1 Dedicate; 2 Writhe; 3 Omen; 4 Inferior; 5 Attend; 6 Toss; 11 Tempting; 13 External; 15 Occupy; 17 Let out; 19 Heed; 21 Crib.

Quiz

1. Who wrote the novel The History of Tom Jones?
2. Of what is encephalitis the inflammation?
3. Which veteran TV cook died in December 1994?
4. Which country's parliament is the Folketing?
5. What was a highwayman without a horse called?
6. Of which country is Cape Byron the eastern extremity?
7. What do we call a cloud of gas and dust in space?
8. Which king was the intended victim of the Gunpowder Plot?
9. Who wrote the play Look Back in Anger?
10. Which Highland town became a city in 2001?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Electrical capacitance; 2 Enid Blyton; 3 Light-Emitting Diode; 4 Liighthouse of Alexandria; 5 Vientiane; 6 Indian; 7 Hedgehog; 8 Signs and symbols; 9 Rabies; 10 Henrik Ibsen.

Niner: LATHERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

42315 gives an element,
619658 gives a second element,
6157 gives atoms.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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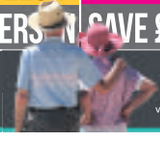

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Kevin Yarwood, with wife Amanda and Andy Cooper

Captain of his Shipp – Mark at the tiller

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For novices such as ourselves, Anglo Welsh help choose a route to suit and show the ropes, quite literally in our case as the ropes came in very handy.

Kevin operates from the Great Haywood base, which he has turned into a mini family affair, alongside his wife, son, sister and brother. This, together with more than 25 years of experience, allows Kevin to offer a more personal service.

"I first started out doing a Saturday job and I have been here ever since," he said. It was Kevin who took us on the first stage of our journey, showing us around the boat and then giving us our instructions.

We were 'let loose' on Abi – all day boats are named after the staff members, their partners or children.

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There were just two of us, but at just £99 for a day's hire, a party booking would be ideal, particularly as it means taking it in turns at the helm.

For ourselves, however, it became apparent that if there was a driving test for narrowboats we would have failed. We were taken by Kevin along the Trent & Mersey to the first of the locks along the route. Tuition was given and other relevant instructions passed on.

After the safe handover, we were then left to fend for ourselves. So what could possibly go wrong? I am a man after all. And with a nautical surname. Surely I could do it! We were only travelling at four miles an hour when all is said and done.

PASSING

The reality was much different. Cruising? Not really. All at sea would be a more apt description.

While other more seasoned boaters were effortlessly passing it was not so easy for us. In fact, our navigational skills, or rather the lack of them, had us turning the air bluer than the boat we were in.

Kevin had told us that to steer left, the tiller had to be moved to the right and vice versa. But the brain had trouble computing this information, which is where the ropes proved useful. Surroundings were tranquil, we passed the back of Shugborough, heading towards Colwich and then the Wolseley Bridge area. It was pleasant to moor up and have a bite to eat and watch the experts pass on their way.

There is always something to see and do along the way, with the Wolseley Arms a particularly popular stop-off point. As for the boating fraternity, one could not really wish to meet a friendlier bunch, with a cheery wave as they passed and help as we hit trouble.

But Kevin's correct – there really is nothing like it. Get it right and you will have the best of days, weekends or weeks you could ever imagine.

From Great Haywood, one could cruise along the Trent & Mersey or indeed the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canals. Day hire starts at £99 with a limit of 10 per boat.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Extended three-bed semi is very well presented

A considerably extended three-bedroomed semi-detached property, 11 Kenmore Avenue, Hednesford, is very well presented.

It is for sale through Marwood Homes at £188,000.

This charming property is located close to Hednesford and Cannock town centres and within easy reach of all local amenities, major road and rail networks.

It is located on a corner end plot if a quiet cul-de-sac. The property's accommodation briefly comprises of a reception hallway, a lounge/dining room, a re-fitted kitchen, a utility room, three bedrooms, a family bathroom, an en-suite shower room and an integral single garage.

It has double-glazing, Upvc facias and soffits, gas central heating and a good sized rear garden.

In more detail, the property has ample parking via a block paved driveway. The lounge/dining room has a feature fireplace. French doors to the rear open to the attractively hard landscaped rear garden off the dining area. The front garden is also attractively landscaped, featuring a manicured lawn and pretty flower borders.

The kitchen has modern wood-effect units and complementary working surfaces and a floor covering. The bathroom an en-suite are fitted with modern white suites. All of the three bedrooms are of a good size.

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PROSPECT HOUSE, BURNTWOOD

- Detached Property with Offices
- Main Warehouse 11,682 sq ft (1,085.3 sq m)
- Offices 1,435 sq ft (133.3 sq m)
- Side Unit 1,647 sq ft (153.0 sq m)
- Gated Site with Self-Contained Yard
- Forecourt Car Parking
- EPC Rating D-84

PRICE: £850,000 plus VAT. RENT: £85,000 pax plus

OFFICES

TOWERS POINT, TOWERS BUSINESS PARK, RUGELEY

- Modern Offices on First & Second Floors
- Approx 1,742 sq ft each floor
- Allocated Car Parking
- Passenger Lift
- EPC Rating D-100

RENT: £14,000 pax REF: BP/1674/AWH

MODERN RETAIL WAREHOUSE

WALSALL ROAD, BRIDGTOWN, CANNOCK

- Adjacent to the Range's New Outlet
- Suitable for a number of Uses STP
- Modern Retail Warehouse
- Approx 7,028 sq ft (653 sq m) plus Mezzanine
- Excellent Transport Links
- EPC Rating C-59

RENT: £65,000 pax plus VAT BP/1717/ELH

INDUSTRIAL

UNIT 4 ADVANCE BUSINESS PARK, CANNOCK

- Unit Approx 3,049 sq ft (283.3 sq m)
- Roller Shutter Access to rear
- Minimum Eaves Height 15ft (4.7m)
- Office, Kitchen & WC Facilities
- Allocated Car Parking
- EPC Rating D-93

RENT: £15,000 pax plus VAT

INDUSTRIAL

MAPLE HOUSE BUSINESS PARK, CANNOCK

- Modern Units Approx 1,100 sq ft (102.2 sq m)
- Unit to Include Single Office and WC
- Within Close Proximity of the M6 Toll
- Flexible Terms
- EPC Rating E-108

RENT: £7,500 pax plus VAT

OFFICES

HEMLOCK PARK, HYSSOP CLOSE, CANNOCK

- Offices from 148 sq ft
- Ground & First Floor Offices
- Flexible Short Term Basis
- Fully Inclusive Rent
- EPC Rating C-62

RENT: From £197 pcm

ANDREW DIXON & COMPANY

The Woodlands, 4 Hallcourt Crescent, off Walsall Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 0AB.

Tel: (01543) 506640 also at Telford

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Swan Close Cheslyn Hay

- Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- En Suite to Master
- Driveway for off Street Parking
- Rear Garden
- EPC = TBC

£270,000

Deal Avenue Burntwood

£85,000

• First Floor Flat • Two Bedrooms
• Lounge / Dining Room • Gas Central Heating
• Rear Garden & Garage • EPC = D

Cannock Road Cannock

£140,000

• Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow • Shower Room
• Conservatory • Rear Garden
• Off Street Parking • EPC = E

Essex Drive

£150,000

• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached bungalow • Two Reception Rooms
• Conservatory Style Room • Mature Rear Garden
• Garage & Driveway • EPC = TBC

Boston Close Heath Hayes

£152,500

• Three Bedroom Semi Detached House • Open Plan Kitchen Diner
• Modern Bathroom with Bath & Shower • Addition of a Utility Area
• Paved Rear Garden for Off Street Parking • EPC = D

Norton East Road Norton Canes

£230,000

• Unique One Off Build • Three Bedroom Detached House
• Three Reception Rooms • Detached Garage & Driveway
• Rear Garden • EPC = TBC

Forest Avenue Cannock

£149,950

• Three Bed Semi Detached • Bathroom & En Suite To Master
• Open Plan Living • Garage & Driveway
• Rear Garden • EPC = D

Hill Street Hednesford

- Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Driveway & Garage
- Mature Rear Garden
- EPC = D

£249,995

Limepit Lane Huntington

£290,000

• Detached Dormer Bungalow • High Quality Throughout
• 15ft Lounge & Guest WC • Double Bedroom with En Suite
• Two First Floor Double Bedrooms • EPC = C

BOOT & SON

Independent Chartered Surveyors
Established 1919

0.7% + vat COMMISSION

Subject to a minimum fee of £750 + vat

NO SALE - NO FEE

SALES LETTINGS MANAGEMENT AUCTIONS SURVEYS COMMERCIAL EPC's

THE OAKLANDS, 6 KENDERDINE CLOSE, BEDNALL

NEW PRICE NO CHAIN

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED FIVE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE ENJOYING VIEWS OVER GREENBELT FARMLAND TO REAR In Popular Cul-De-Sac On The Edge Of This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Three reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen and utility
- Double glazed conservatory
- Five bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom and ensuite shower room
- Detached double width garage
- Landscaped private rear gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed and intruder alarm
- EPC rating C (72)

£585,000 FREEHOLD

89 AVON ROAD, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

IMPROVED FLAT LOCATED IN POPULAR POSITION Convenient For Facilities at Cannock Town Centre

- Entrance lobby and store room
- Landing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Garden/off road parking
- Gas fired central heating
- Part double glazed
- EPC rating D (66)

£86,950

HIGHFIELDS GARDENS

HIGH MOUNT STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4BN (WITH ACCESS BETWEEN 93 AND 97)

The Helmsley
Plot 2

PHASE III OF WELL EQUIPPED TWO AND FOUR BEDROOMED HOMES Being built as part of a private owner/occupier development of 22 dwellings

- Well Equipped Four Bedroomed Mews House
- Reception Hall
- Cloakroom
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three First Floor Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom and En-Suite Shower Room
- Second Floor Bedroom with En-Suite and Dressing Room
- Private Garden at Rear
- Garage
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Fully Double Glazed

Well Equipped Four Bedroom Mews House
PRICE: £234,950 FREEHOLD

Move In With 5% Deposit & 75% Mortgage.

Hold to Buy

EPC Rating B (82)
www.rightmove.co.uk - Search:- WS12 4BN

Backed by HM Government
www.helptobuy.org.uk

VIEW HOME AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
CALL 01922 410600 TO ARRANGE A VIEWING

40 OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED, IMPROVED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE WITH FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING SELF CONTAINED FLAT SUITABLE FOR EXTENDED FAMILY OCCUPYING MATURE WELL STOCKED GARDENS In Much Sought After Residential Area Adjoining Cannock Park To The Rear

- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Games/hobby/play room
- Five bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Shower room
- Self contained flat (currently let on AST)
- Double integral garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC rating D (66)

NO CHAIN

£615,000 FREEHOLD

44 SHAWS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

NO CHAIN

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW LOCATED IN POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA OF THIS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE VILLAGE Convenient For Wide Range of Local Facilities

- Lounge with dining area
- Kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Sun lounge and cellar storage area
- Gardens and off road parking
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed
- Viewing recommended
- EPC rating F (27)

£225,000 FREEHOLD

49 LANGDALE DRIVE, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

IMPROVED TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW Located In popular Position Conveniently Located For Facilities

- Side entrance hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating tbc

£139,950 LEASEHOLD

9 STATION ROAD, PELSALL

A PRESTIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FOUR BEDROOMED HOUSE Conveniently Located For Facilities at Pelsall Village Centre

- Two reception rooms
- Luxury fitted kitchen
- Cloakroom and first floor study
- Four bedrooms
- Family bathroom and 2 ensuites
- Garage and landscaped gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating tbc

£310,000

104 HATHERTON ROAD, CANNOCK

AN EXTENDED WELL EQUIPPED FIVE BEDROOMED FAMILY RESIDENCE Located In Sought After Residential Area of The Town

- Enclosed porch & reception hall
- Guest cloakroom with WC
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen (Two UPVC double glazed conservatories
- Four first floor bedrooms & family bathroom
- Second floor bedroom & ensuite bathroom
- Gas central heating & fully double glazed
- Integral garage (limited width) & large gardens
- EPC rating D (64)

£349,950 FREEHOLD

24 HAWTHORNE ROAD, CHESLYN HAY

NO CHAIN

WELL MAINTAINED THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE located In Popular Area of The Village

- Canopy porch & entrance lobby
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Integral garage
- Well stocked gardens & off road parking
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating D (67)

£159,950 FREEHOLD

'CHADCROFTS', 25 SANDY LANE, CANNOCK

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED AND EXTENDED INDIVIDUAL DETACHED HOUSE OFFERING FLEXIBLE 3/4 BEDROOMED ACCOMMODATION Located In Much Sought After Shoal Hill Residential Area of the Town in Secluded Private Drive

- Vestibule and reception hall
- Lounge, study and snug
- Fitted kitchen with breakfast area
- Four bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom and ensuite shower room
- Well stocked gardens
- Two garages
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating D (59)

£495,000 FREEHOLD

2 LOVE LANE PARK HOMES, LOVE LANE, RUGELEY

ATTRACTIVE WELL EQUIPPED PARK HOME ON ESTABLISHED PARK HOME SITE ADJACENT TO CANAL TWO PATH WITHIN A SHORT WALK OF TOWN CENTRE AND WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES

- Canopy porch
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Utility
- Gas fired central heating (LPG) & Fully double glazed
- Allocated parking (No pets allowed
- For persons agred 50 and over

£76,950 LEASEHOLD

51 MANOR AVENUE, CANNOCK

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED AND EXTENDED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE OF CHARACTER Located In Popular Cul-De-Sac Convenient For Facilities at Cannock Town Centre

- Lounge
- Double glazed conservatory
- Breakfast kitchen
- Side entrance lobby & utility room
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom and separate toilet
- Off road parking and well stocked garden
- Predominatly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating D (56)

£279,950 FREEHOLD

430 LITTLEWORTH ROAD, HEDNESFORD

NO CHAIN

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW OCCUPYING SECLUDED POSITION IN PRIVATE DRIVE Convenient For Facilities at Hednesford, Heath Hayes and Cannock Centres

- Side reception hall
- Lounge
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Possible garage space
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating C (72)

£164,950 FREEHOLD

FLAT 5, TEDDESLEY HOUSE, CLAY STREET, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED FIRST FLOOR TWO BEDROOMED APARTMENT Conveniently Located For Facilities Of The Centre Of The Popular Market Village Of Penkridge

- Communal hall, stairs and landing
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom and en-suite shower room
- Two bedrooms
- Allocated parking space
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating C (80)

£149,950

BOOT & SON

Independent Chartered Surveyors
Established 1919

8% + VAT MANAGEMENT FEE

Subject to Set-up Fee of £250 inc Vat

No Let - No Fee - No Hidden Extras

SALES LETTINGS MANAGEMENT AUCTIONS SURVEYS COMMERCIAL EPC's

18 BLACKHAM ROAD, ASHMORE PARK, WEDNESFIELD

TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE

- Lounge & dining area
- Double glazed conservatory
- Kitchen
- Side porch & utility area
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Sorry no DSS, smokers or pets
- EPC rating: D (58)

£550pcm

232 HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED AND PRESENTED TWO BEDROOM MID MEWS HOUSE

- Cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Gardens & off road parking to the rear
- Sorry no pets, smokers, DSS or sharers
- EPC rating: tbc

£595pcm

6 STAG PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

UNDER APPLICATION

ATTRACTIVE THREE STOREY BARN CONVERSION Situated On The Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Guests cloakroom
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Oil fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (75)

£645pcm (Plus Service Charge)

339 LONGFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW Located In Sought After Residential Area

- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Garage
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers
- EPC rating: D (61)

£625pcm

76 LANGDALE DRIVE, CANNOCK

THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME Conveniently Located For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Integral garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no smokers, pets or DSS allowed
- EPC rating: C (72)

£695pcm

2 STAG PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

UNDER APPLICATION

WELL EQUIPPED SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSIONSituated On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Oil fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Enclosed rear terrace
- Communal grounds & parking
- Sorry no smokers, pets or DSS allowed
- EPC rating: C (71)

£695pcm (Plus Service Charge)

1 FOUNTAIN COURT, TEDDESLEY PARK, PENKRIDGE

SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION Situated on the Picturesque Rural Estate of Teddesley Park

- Fitted dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Inner Hall
- Two double bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Communal landscaped gardens
- Oil fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry No pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating C (69)

£615pcm

4 BRADBURY COURT, HEDNESFORD

FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE located In Private Cul-De-Sac

- Reception hall & cloakroom with WC
- Lounge and dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Four bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room & family bathroom
- Integral garage and gardens
- Gas central heating & fully double glazed
- Sorry No smokers, pets or DD
- EPC rating D (59)

£825pcm

34 BROADMEADOW LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Built-on garage
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Large gardens
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (62)

£625pcm

THE LODGE, LOVE LANE PARK HOMES, RUGELEY

EXTREMELY WELL APPOINTED ONE BEDROOM LODGE Situated In This Well Maintained Park Home Development Convenient For Facilities Locally

- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Sauna
- Electric heating
- Double glazed
- Gardens & decked terrace
- For persons aged 50 & over
- Sorry no smokers, pets or DSS
- EPC rating: N/A

£500pcm

44 BROOK LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT

- Entrance hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Sorry n pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating C (71)

£495pcm

10 SPIRES CROFT, SHARESHILL

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Popular Cul-De-Sac In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Refitted open plan dining kitchen
- Four bedrooms
- Refitted en-suite shower room
- Refitted family bathroom
- Detached double width garage
- Well stocked mature gardens
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (64)

£1300pcm

8 STAG PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK, PENKRIDGE

WELL APPOINTED THREE BEDROOM THREE STOREY BARN CONVERSION Located On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Three double bedrooms
- En-suite shower room & family bathroom
- Oil fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Communal parking & grounds
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (76)

£775pcm

1 CLOCK MEWS, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION Situated On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Fitted dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Inner hall
- Two double bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Oil fired central heating
- Communal grounds & parking
- EPC rating: C (69)

£650pcm (Plus Service Charge)

1C CANNOCK ROAD, BURNTWOOD

WELL PRESENTED ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT Convenient For Local Facilities

- Entrance lobby
- Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (67)

£450pcm

282 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

WELL MAINTAINED THREE/FOUR BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Residential Area

- Enclosed porch & reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining room/bedroom 4
- Refitted kitchen
- Inner lobby & guest cloakroom with WC
- Three bedrooms & refitted bathroom
- Fully double glazed & gas central heating
- Garden & off road parking
- Sorry No DSS, smokers or pets allowed
- EPC rating D (65)

£650pcm

9A COPPICE CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY

SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW Situated At Head Of Cul-De-Sac In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Landscaped gardens
- Carport & extensive off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (64)

£775pcm

35 GORSEY LANE, CANNOCK

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED AND IMPROVED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Offering Well Equipped Accommodation Located In Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Town

- Sitting room & living room
- Double glazed conservatory
- L-shaped breakfast kitchen
- Utility room/cloaks room
- Four bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Extensive parking and garage
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (57)

£1400pcm

50 GLADSTONE ROAD, HEATH HAYES

WELL PRESENTED TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW

- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Detached garage
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers
- EPC rating: D (66)

£695pcm

4 HATHERTON HOUSE, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT Located In Sought After Area Convenient For Facilities At The Village Centre

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: C (77)

£550pcm

17 HIGHFIELD AVENUE, BURNTWOOD

THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge/dining room
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Side verandah
- Bathroom & separate WC
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Garage
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£695pcm

6 BADGERS WAY, HEATH HAYES

THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Residential Area Convenient For Local Facilities

- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room
- Built-on garage
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: D (60)

£600pcm

48 ST JOHNS ROAD, CANNOCK

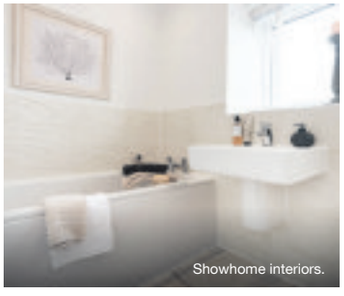
THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Conveniently Located For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Ground floor WC
- Three double bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Built-on garage
- Gas central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Sorry no DSS, pets, smokers or children
- EPC rating: F (35)

£695pcm

Own your dream three-bedroom home in a sought-after village location!

CAMERON



Showhome interiors.

Computer generated image, details may vary.

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Move into your very own three-bedroom home with Help to Buy, and enjoy a desirable village setting.

Our three-bedroom homes start from £219,950, only **£175,960 with Help to Buy*** and feature:

- French doors to the rear garden
- a beautiful family bathroom
- a modern open plan kitchen/living/dining area
- a master bedroom with fitted wardrobes

Our Sales Advisor will be on hand to tell you about the tailored packages available to help you own your dream home.

*Speak to a Sales Advisor for details.

Visit our Swannington Showhome and Sales Office, open **Thursday - Monday** between **11am and 5pm**. Alternatively, call **01543 331645** or email **austengrange@cameronhomes.co.uk**

cameronhomes.co.uk/austen-grange

Help to Buy

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Property Auction

AUCTION

Monday 3rd July 2017

7pm Prompt at

THE PREMIER SUITE, BAR SPORT

1st Floor The Danilo, High Green, Cannock

Address	Wednesday 11th, 21st & 28th June	Saturday 10th, 17th, 24th June & 1st July
226 Cannock Road, Wednesfield	10.00am	10.00am
79 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	10.45am	10.45am
159 Stafford Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
279 Stafford Road, Cannock	11.45am	11.45am
The Limes, 193 Pye Green Road, Cannock	12.15pm	12.15pm
Land to Rear of 174/176 Belt Road, Hednesford	12.45pm	12.45pm
*34 Market Street, Hednesford Flat Only—Access at Rear	1.15pm	1.15pm
12 Warren Close, Rawnsley	1.45pm	1.45pm
18 Dawson Street, Blakenhall Heath, Walsall	By Appointment Through The Agents	
Land 7 Hill Street, , Hednesford		
Land Adj. Ivy Gardens, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes	By attending on site with Catalogue to hand	
Land Between 6 & 14 Foundry Lane, Pelsall		

* Shop at the courtesy of the Lessee during normal working hours with a sale catalogue to

Tel: 01543 505454

www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1

THE LIMES, 193 PYE GREEN ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5SB
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- In need of refurbishment
- Part double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating F (36)

GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £90,000

LOT 2

279 STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AT
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- In need or refurbishment
- Gas fired central heating
- Part double glazing
- EPC rating E (39)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000+

LOT 3

226 CANNOCK ROAD, WEDNESFIELD, WV10 8PW

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Good sized semi detached house
- In popular location ◆ Two reception rooms
- Kitchen ◆ Conservatory
- Three bedrooms ◆ Bathroom
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating ◆ EPC rating E (42)

GUIDE PRICE £90,000+

LOT 4

LAND ADJ IVY GARDENS, BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES, WS11 9SE
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Individual building plot
- Ripe for immediate development
- Planning permission for development of detached two bedroom bungalow

GUIDE PRICE £35,000-£40,000

LOT 5

LAND BETWEEN 6 & 14 FOUNDARY LANE, PELSALL, WS3 4GH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Individual building plot
- With planning permission
- Detached two bedroomed house
- Ripe for immediate development

GUIDE PRICE £50,000+

LOT 6

159 STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Good size inner terraced house
- Needing some refurbishment
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating D (56)

GUIDE PRICE £85,000+

LOT 7

12 WARREN CLOSE, RAWNSLEY, CANNOCK, WS12 0JY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Spacious three bedroomed semi detached house
- Ideal buy to let
- In need of some improvement
- Partial gas fired central heating
- Replacement PVC window frames
- EPC rating tbc

GUIDE PRICE £85,000+

LOT 8

34 MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1AF

FREEHOLD COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
- Prominently located on busy town centre thoroughfare
- Relatively new lease just completed
- Longstanding commercial tenant ◆ Ground floor - lock up shop
- First floor - Self contained flat
- Currently producing £7,280 P.A but capable of £11,480 P.A when fully let

GUIDE PRICE £90,000

LOT 8A

18 DAWSON STREET, BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL, WS3 1LN
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (66)

GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£70,000

LOT 9

LAND TO REAR OF 174/176 BELT ROAD, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4JA
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Freehold residential building land
- With resolution to grant outline planning permission
- For redevelopment with 6No. two bedroomed flats

GUIDE PRICE £125,000 - £150,000

LOT 10

79 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 1AP

LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Two storey maisonette in popular residential development
- Two bedrooms ◆ Electric heating
- Double glazing
- In need of improvement
- Close to facilities at the town centre
- EPC rating D (67)

GUIDE PRICE £65,000

LOT 11

LAND 7 HILL STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1SJ

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Individual building plot
- With planning permission
- Detached four bedroomed house
- Ripe for immediate development

GUIDE PRICE £100,000+

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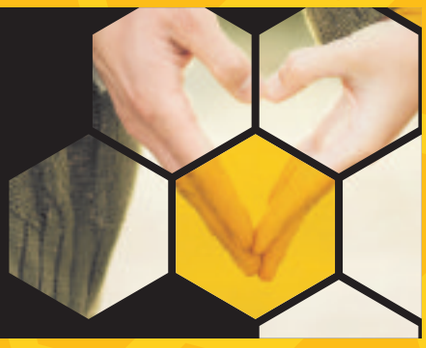

Cannock
Gorsey Lane

2 2 1 EPC D
£165,000

Heath Hayes Blithfield Place

4 2 2 EPC E
£275,000

Huntington Comfrey Close

4 1 2 EPC C
£219,995

Heath Hayes Langtree Close

4 2 2 EPC D
£210,000

Heath Hayes Condor Grove

6 3 2 EPC D
£300,000

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Great Wyrley
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RUGELEY

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£91,500

GLOVERS HILL COURT
BRERETON

A modern two bedroomed ground floor apartment being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated and UPVC double-glazed throughout. Communal Entrance Hall, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC RATING - C

£109,950

UPFIELD WAY
RUGELEY

CASH BUYERS ONLY - due to length of lease
A three bedroomed semi-detached located in a cul-de-sac position within walking distance to the local schools and amenities. Side Entrance Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen and Lean To. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Driveway with Carport and Garage. Garden to rear. EPC Rating E

£120,000

CANTERBURY DRIVE
RUGELEY

A modern mid-terraced property ideal for a first-time buyer or investor offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge and Fitted Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Garden with off-road parking to the front and enclosed garden to rear. EPC Rating C

£137,500

FERNWOOD DRIVE
RUGELEY

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN this three bedroomed link-detached has the benefit of Gas Central Heating and UPVC double-glazing. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen. First Floor Landng with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear. SINGLE GARAGE to rear. EPC Rating D

£149,950

HISLOP ROAD
RUGELEY

A modern detached bungalow benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas Central Heating. Entrance hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Low maintenance garden to rear. EPC Rating C

£149,950

LEVETT GRANGE
RUGELEY

A well presented three-bedroomed modern end terraced property in popular development. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Allocated parking to front. Enclosed garden to rear. EPC Rating - C

£165,000

ASHTREE BANK
BRERETON

A good size three bedroomed semi-detached property in a sought after location. Benefiting from Gas central heating and Double-glazing. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen and Utility Room. Landing, Three Bedrooms and Refitted Family Bathroom. Driveway to front. Gardens to front and rear. SINGLE GARAGE. EPC RATING D

£169,950

ST THOMAS WAY
HAWKSYARD

A well presented semi-detached property positioned on popular modern development. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms, En-suite Shower Room and Bathroom. Driveway to side. SINGLE GARAGE. Enclosed garden to rear. EPC Rating - B

£175,000

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GREAT HAYWOOD

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£178,000

THE LIMES
RUGELEY

A beautifully presented three bedroomed detached family home,within walking distance to town centre offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN.Entrance Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room and Ground Floor Bedroom. First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom with En Suite Shower Room, Second Bedroom and Family Bathroom. Detached Garage with Driveway

£250,000

ST LAWRENCE DRIVE
HEATH HAYES

A well presented family home ideally situated for the local amenities. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Fitted kitchen, Utility Room and Guest Cloakroom. First Floor Landing with Four Bedrooms one having an En-Suite and Family Bathroom. SINGLE GARAGE. Gardens to front and rear. Awaiting EPC

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2 bedroomed apartment in Armitage at .....£550 pcm

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2 bedroomed bungalow in Rugeley at .....£675 pcm

3 bedroomed house in Brereton at .....£725 pcm

3 bedroomed cottage in Colton at .....£795 pcm

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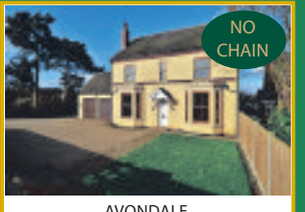
A completely refurbished open plan bungalow having undergone extensive works by the current Vendors. Open Plan Living Kitchen with seating and dining areas, Lounge, Two Bedrooms one with En-suite Shower Room, Third Bedroom/Study and Large Bathroom. Extensive parking to front. Delightful well established landscaped private gardens to rear. EPC Rating D

£350,000



AVONDALE
HILL RIDWARE

A three-storey family detached property set in the village of Hill Ridware. Having undergone a programme of refurbishment this 5 bedroomed, 3 bathroomed property must be viewed to appreciate the size of living accommodation on offer. Large garden and 0.86acre paddock to rear. EPC Rating D

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Globe House, Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, WS15 2DN
Telephone: 01889 583377
Email: sales@cresidential.co.uk

Four-bedroomed property is bigger than it looks

A deceptively spacious four-bedroomed detached property in St. Francis Close, Hednesford, Cannock is for sale through Webbs at offers over £260,000.

Being well presented, the home lies in a quiet cul-de-sac location in a popular residential area.

In brief the property's accommodation consists of an entrance hallway, a guest WC and a large lounge with double doors leading into the dining room.

There is also a conservatory, kitchen with a door leading into the utility area and a garage that has a partition creating two storage rooms (this can be reverted back).

To the first floor there are four bedrooms with the master having an en-suite shower room, and a further family bathroom.

Outside is a rear garden and parking is provided by a block paved driveway.

For further information, contact Webbs on 01543 468846.

HEDNESFORD

£260,000

Lovely three-bedroom semi detached on the market

CANNOCK <<<

£165,000

This charming extended three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Harbell Close, Cannock, is for sale through Paul Carr at £165,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an extended kitchen, a spacious lounge, three bedrooms, a family bathroom, a rear garden and off-road parking for several cars via a full-width block paved driveway frontage.

Its lounge has an attractive modern feature fireplace and a window to the front. The dining room has wood-effect flooring and glazed doors opening out to the rear garden which has a lawn and a patio area.

For further information, or to book a viewing, contact Paul Carr on 01543 686444 or visit www.paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

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- Newly fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Utility/guest wc
- NO CHAIN
- Must be viewed
- EPC rating D

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HEATH HAYES
ACORN CLOSE

- A three bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazed
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Gardens front and rear
- Off road parking
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC rating C

£134,950

HEATH HAYES
HEATH WAY

- A two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Two bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Gardens front and rear
- Off road parking
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC rating C

£124,950

NORTON CANES
HEDNESFORD ROAD

- A three bedroom detached
- Large plot of land
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, bathroom
- Three bedrooms
- Land to rear, stables
- Awaiting EPC rating

£250,000

HEDNESFORD
MEADOWLARK CLOSE

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- Large corner plot
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining area
- Refitted kitchen, conservatory
- Refitted bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, driveway
- Side garden, NO CHAIN
- EPC Rating D

£175,000

CANNOCK
RUMER HILL ROAD

- A spacious three bedroom detached
- Split level lounge/diner
- Kitchen/diner
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- Sitting room and conservatory
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear, garage and driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£249,950

HEATH HAYES
FIRECREST CLOSE

- A spacious four bedroom detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen/diner, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Three further bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear, driveway
- Garage, awaiting EPC rating

£259,950

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- First floor 1 bedroom apartment
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- Good Location
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£110,000

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- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good sized rear gaarden
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£155,000

HEATH HAYES
PARTRIDGE CLOSE

- A modern two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Two bedrooms
- Garden to rear
- Off road parking
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC rating C

£129,995

HEATH HAYES
CHARLOCK GROVE

- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge, Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Guest WC
- Garage & Driveway
- Gas central heated
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£209,995

HEATH HAYES
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- Conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted modern bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Garage
- EPC rating C

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- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs WC
- Very Popular Location

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Meriden Close, Cannock

- Detached Bungalow
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- Very Spacious
- 3 Reception Rooms
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- Garage
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- EPC - TBC

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Kenmore Avenue, Hednesford

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- Fitted Kitchen & Utility
- En-suite Shower Room & Bathroom

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- Three Bedrooms
- Immaculate Condition
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Garage

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- Corner Plot in Cul-de-sac
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Coverted Garage
- Lounge/Diner
- No Chain Involved

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Riverside Court, Cannock

- IMMACULATE APARTMENT
- UNDERCOVER PARKING
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE & BATHROOM
- STUNNING KITCHEN N
- PRIVATE BALCONY F

£120,000

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- Spacious Lounge/Diner
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House sales dip but experts are still optimistic

Residential property sales in the UK fell by 3.3 per cent between April and May 2017 but they were 13.4 per cent higher compared with the same month last year, the latest official figures show.

But the data report from HMRC points out that direct comparisons of residential transactions between May 2017 and May 2016 should be avoided due to the lower than usual level of transactions in May 2016 associated with the introduction of the higher tax rates on additional properties in April 2016.

"The large increase in transactions for March 2016 followed by the substantial reduction in April is likely to be associated with the introduction of the higher rates on additional properties," the report says.

It also explains that non-tax factors may have played a role as well, for example the Bank of England's plans to curb buy to let mortgages resulting in a rush to purchase before April 2016, and the European Union Referendum.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the number of non-residential property transactions increased by 1.5 per cent between April 2017 and May 2017, some 4.6 per cent higher compared with the same month last year.

According to Stephen Wasserman, managing director at West One Loans, it is confirmation of the cooling in the market at present but despite a period of gradual decline, he is cautiously optimistic that sales will pick up again in the coming months.

"The market has shown itself to be incredibly resilient, but, during this time of prolonged economic uncertainty, it is important that borrowers are aware of the variety of financing options available to them. We have seen a fivefold increase in bridging loans since 2011 as borrowers make the most of the flexibility and speed this type of financing offers," he said.

But Ishaan Malhi, chief executive officer of online mortgage broker Trussle, is not so sure. "It seems as though many took the wait-and-see approach to buying or selling a home in the lead-up to the general election, preferring to know the lay of the land before making such an important financial decision," he said.

"With the vote turning out the way that it did, home owners are unlikely to be jumping into action until we at least have a little more clarity on the shape of the Government. Because of this, it's possible the downward trend in transactions could continue into June," he pointed out.

"Home owners may also be weighing the recent fall in house prices into their decision to sell, but with the spike in inflation we're witnessing, it looks as though interest rates could rise at some time soon," he added.

But Richard Sexton, director of chartered surveyors e.surv, does not think it is a dramatic fall. "Despite the recent election, property transactions have not cooled off drastically and confidence in the market still remains," he said.

However, he warned that an attractive mortgage market with low interest rates does not answer the fundamental issue which is stopping so many get onto the housing ladder. "In order to open up the market, affordable and accessible housing needs to be built to address the housing shortage," he added.

Government pressing ahead with pledge on letting fees

Several policies set out in the UK Government's Housing White Paper earlier this year have been confirmed at the opening of the new Parliament in London, including a ban on letting fees.

The Queen's Speech said that there will be a new Housing Bill which will aim to promote fairness and transparency in the market and allow for the building of more new homes.

The ban on letting agent fees will go ahead in the next Parliamentary Session which will cover the next two years with the 2018 Queen's Speech being cancelled to allow the Government to concentrate on Brexit. The speech said that the Government hopes that by increasing competition in the private rental sector it will result in lower overall costs and a higher quality of service for renters.

The new law will ban landlords and agents from requiring tenants to pay letting fees as a condition of their tenancy. It will also include ways for tenants to recover unlawfully charged fees. Letting fees are already banned in Scotland.

Complained

The average amount paid in fees is currently £223, according to Government figures and the chancellor, Philip Hammond, previously said that 4.3m households pay such fees every year. However, housing charity Shelter research suggests that one in seven renters pays more than £500 and tenants in London have complained about fees of up to £2,000.

David Cox, chief executive of the Association of Residential Letting Agents, said he is concerned that the ban on letting fees will be rushed through without taking sufficient notice of the consultation.

"It's unlikely the Government had enough time to analyse all of the responses from the consultation, as it only closed on June 2. It appears they had already made their decision and therefore the consultation was no more than a tick box exercise and they haven't appropriately taken the industry's views into account," he said. "A ban on letting agent fees will cost the sector jobs, make buy to let investment even less attractive, and ultimately result in the costs being passed on to tenants," he added.

Cox also pointed out that research conducted by Capital Economics for ARLA earlier this year found that referencing checks undertaken by agents take, on average, eight hours to complete. "It is therefore right and proportionate that the industry is recompensed for this work, which benefits tenants," Cox said.

The research also showed that letting agents stand to lose around £200 million in turnover, potentially costing the sector 4,000 jobs. Landlords themselves could lose £300 million, meaning they may seek to cover their losses by increasing rents to tenants.

"On average, rent costs will go up by £103 per tenant, per year, ultimately meaning tenants who move more frequently will reap savings on their overall costs but longer term tenants, who are usually lower income families, will see a loss as their rents rise year-on-year. The ban contradicts the Government's stated aim to encourage longer term tenancies, as tenants who stay in their homes for the long term will end up shouldering the costs of those who move more frequently," he added,

Lucy Morton, head of residential at JLL, pointed out that charges made by letting agents to tenants at the commencement of their tenancies should have been levied only to cover reasonable administration and referencing costs.

"However this has been abused by some agents who have been overcharging for their gain and to the detriment of tenants so the Government has now acted and will be banning letting agents from making these charges," she said.

"Reasonable charges including referencing costs may now be charged to landlords which in turn may then be added to the annual rent. It is essential that agents do not cut corners and fail to carry out stringent referencing checks," she added.

A Bill to continue the progress of the High Speed Two rail line between Birmingham and Manchester will also be brought forward. This gives some certainty to home owners along the route who may be entitled to compensation and/or have their homes purchased at the going rate. With Brexit taking front of stage, reaction from the property industry was muted and will now create concerns that housing, instead of being a major part of the next Parliament, will again be pushed down the political agenda.

Lack of confidence sees buy to let lending figures fall

Home lending in the UK increased month-on-month and year-on-year in May, however expectations for this year and 2018 in the buy to let sector have been revised down due to burdens on the housing market.

Overall, the Council of Mortgage Lenders estimates that gross mortgage lending reached £20.1 billion in May, up 12 per cent increase on both April and on May last year, driven by remortgaging and first-time buyers.

But the CML's buy to let forecast for 2017 and 2018 has been revised down from previous expectations at the end of last year, reflecting tax and prudential burdens in the housing and mortgage markets.

The CML now expects buy to let lending of £35 billion in 2017 and £33 billion in 2018, a decrease from £38 billion in each year, forecast in December last year.

"Remortgage activity and first-time buyers continue to drive lending this year. Looking ahead, we expect to see this trend continue, but not as strongly, as the factors supporting lending are blunted by less favourable economic conditions," said CML director general Paul Smee.

"Buy to let had a weak start to 2017 and the sector's contribution to overall net mortgage lending has fallen considerably over the last year. While falling mortgage interest rates have helped support borrowing, tax and prudential measures are exerting pressure on the buy to let market," he explained.

"Following the distortion of the stamp duty change on second properties last year, we expected a slight

recovery in lending levels. However, this has not materialised, and we therefore have lowered our forecast for buy to let lending this year and next. This re-emphasises the case for avoiding further changes to the tax and regulatory framework until the effect of these already in train have been properly assessed," he added.

Landlords, especially amateur landlords with just one or a small number of properties, have had their confidence hit extremely hard by the new tax and prudential lending regime, according to Alastair McKee, managing director of independent mortgage broker One 77 Mortgages.

"The downward revision in the buy to let forecasts reflects the sharp deterioration in confidence among everyday landlords. At the more professional, portfolio end of the buy to let market, the new tax rules and lending regulations have had less of an impact and investors are responding proactively in order to maintain a margin," he added.

Jeremy Duncombe, director of the Legal & General Mortgage Club, believes that a rise in mortgage lending is largely a result of borrowers having to borrow more to get on the increasingly expensive property ladder, not necessarily a symbol of more people getting mortgages.

"However, in the current low interest rate environment borrowing continues to remain attractive to many, particularly to first time buyers who help keep the market buoyant. There are currently a lot of products available on the market," he added.

According to Jeff Knight, marketing director of Foundation Home Loans, the mortgage market is clearly able to withstand more than a few knocks. "Record low mortgage rates have matched on-going incentives for first time buyers, boosting confidence for those looking to get a foot on the housing ladder," he said.

"That said, the uncertainty off the back of the election may delay a more immediate solution to the ongoing supply and demand imbalance, and appetite of those seeking mortgage approvals will be dampened with less quality property to choose from," he pointed out.

"While we wait to see what further policies will be introduced, or axed, as may be the case with Help to Buy, we need to ensure that the buy to let market is robust enough to best serve those saving up for that first deposit in the meantime," he added.

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A Three Bedroom Semi-detached House

- Double Glazed with Gas Central Heating
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Orangery
- Downstairs Bathroom, Family Bathroom & En-Suite
- Parking on Large Driveway and Garage

£249,950

NEW

Bilberry Close, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom End Link Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Attached Garage and Driveway
- Garden to Rear

£184,950

NEW

IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Gorse Road, Brereton

A Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gardens Front & Rear

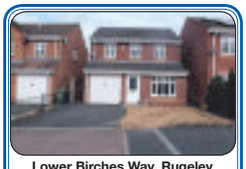
£112,000

Burnthill Lane Rugeley

A Four Bedroom Executive Detached House

- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Dining Room
- Integral Garage

£249,950



Lower Birches Way, Rugeley

A 3 Bedroom Executive Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ground Floor W.C
- Conservatory/ Dining Room
- Double Driveway and Integral Garage
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden

£215,000

Rockhouse Drive, Great Haywood

A Four Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Groundfloor Bathroom
- Study & Utility Room
- Verandah & Carport
- Driveway to Front and Enclosed Rear Garden

£254,950

More Properties URGENTLY REQUIRED Rugeley and Surrounding Areas

Ti-Arwil, Keystone Lane, Rugeley

Trtaditional 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Part Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens & Driveway Parking
- Single Car Garage & Outside W.C

£163,000

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Rental Properties URGENTLY Required

Rugeley and Surrounding Areas

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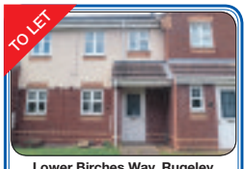
TO LET

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley

Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House

- Gas Central Heating/ Double Glazing
- Downstairs WC
- Bathroom, Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Allocated Parking to Rear

£575 PCM

LET

Levett Grange, Rugeley

A Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Guest W.C
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Allocated Parking to Front

£600 PCM

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Upper Brook Street

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- Three Offices
- Storage Area On Second Floor
- Toilet
- Kitchen Area

£3000 P.A.

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This three-bedroomed detached house in Teddesley Way, Huntington lies on a corner position of a quiet cul-de-sac.

Having recently joined the property market, it is for sale through Marwood Homes at £175,000 with no chain.

With spacious accommodation throughout, this includes a fitted kitchen, full width lounge/diner

HUNTINGTON

£175,000

and a converted garage which is now a versatile room. The house has off road parking to the front for numerous cars and private gardens to the rear. The upstairs bedrooms are spacious with the master having its own en-suite. The converted garage has storage cupboards and the lounge/diner has sliding doors to the rear garden and a feature gas fireplace.

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For further information, or to book that all important viewing, please call Marwood Homes on 01543 500700.

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Great Wyrley Office - £325,000

CHESLYN HAY, BESOM WAY

- Well Maintained Detached House — 4
- Highly Sought After Location — 2
- Viewing Highly recommended — C
- En-Suite To Master

Burntwood Office - £320,000

BURNTWOOD, MACADAM CLOSE

- En Suite To Master — 4
- Conservatory — 2
- Rural Views To Front Aspect — D
- Private Cul-De-Sac Location

Great Wyrley - £280,000

CHESLYN HAY, STATION STREET

- Extended Period Semi-Detached Residence — 3
- Renovated To a High Specification — 2
- Built-in 'Neff' Appliances — D

Great Wyrley Office - £265,000

CHESLYN HAY, BROOK ROAD

- Superb Detached House — 4
- Prime Location — 2
- En-Suite To Master — C
- Garage

Burntwood Office - £249,950

BURNTWOOD, MORLINGS DRIVE

- Link Detached House — 4
- Refitted Kitchen — 2
- Conservatory
- Cul-De-Sac

Burntwood Office -£229,950

LICHFIELD, FRANCIS ROAD

- Detached House — 3
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom — 1
- Garage
- No Upward Chain — D

Great Wyrley Office - £200,000

GREAT WYRLEY, STATION ROAD

- Semi-Detached Residence — 3
- Conservatory — 1
- Mature Landscaped Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Great Wyrley - £174,950

HEATH HAYES, HEATHLAND CLOSE

- Extended 3/4 Bedroom Semi-Detached Residence — 3
- Well Presented Throughout — 1
- Off Road Parking — D

Great Wyrley Office - £169,995

GREAT WYRLEY, QUINTON AVENUE

- Semi-detached Residence — 3
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner — 1
- Conservatory
- Playing Fields To Rear — D

Burntwood Office - £165,000

CANNOCK, HAREBELL CLOSE

- Extended Semi-Detached House — 3
- Lounge/Diner — 1
- Extended Kitchen
- Off Road Parking — C

Great Wyrley Office - £165,000

CHESLYN HAY, BRIDGE AVENUE

- Refurbished Throughout — 3
- Good Size Bedrooms — 1
- Garage
- Viewing Highly Recommended — C

Burntwood Office - £140,000

CHASE TOWN, LABURNUM CLOSE

- Semi-Detached Residence — 3
- Corner Plot — 1
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain — D

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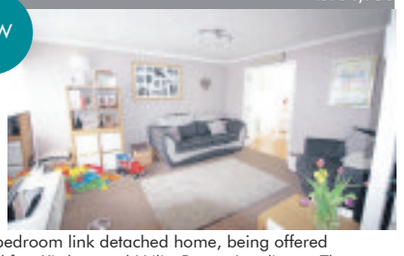
Highland Way, Rugeley — £164,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom link detached home, being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Porch, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen and Utility Room. Landing to Three bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Garage and Garden to rear

Cambrian Lane, Rugeley — £135,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented three bedroom semi detached home, situated close to local amenities. Accommodation having Hallway, Lounge and Breakfast Kitchen. Landing, Three Bedrooms and Refitted Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear with Detached Garage with parking

Lanehead Walk, Etching Hill — £189,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this superbly presented detached bungalow in a popular location. Having the benefit of NO UPWARD CHAIN the property features hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, refitted shower room, detached garage and well maintained gardens. Viewing essential

Levett Grange, Rugeley — £259,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented detached family home, located on a sought after development. Having Hallway, Guest w.c, Lounge, Dining Room and Family Kitchen. Master Bedroom with En Suite,Three further Bedrooms and Bathroom.Driveway to Garage and Garden to rear

Delafield Way, Etching Hill — £179,950

● JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom link detached family home, being close to local amenities. Having Hallway,Lounge and Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Covered Carport and Store Room. Gardens to front and rear. AVAILABLE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN

Lansdowne Way, Etching Hill — £165,000

● JR Properties are pleased to market this extended four bedroom semi detached home,situated on a corner plot. Having Hallway, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Room,Inner Hallway to Shower Room and Bedroom Four. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear with plentiful parking

Oakenhurst Avenue, Hawk- — £165,000

● JR Properties are pleased to market this well presented three bedroom townhouse,being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge and Refitted Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Bedroom with En Suite,Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Landscaped Garden and Garage with parking

Watkiss Drive, Rugeley — £147,950

● JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached home, situated in a cul de sac location,close to local amenities.Having Porch, Lounge, Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway for several vehicles to Carport and Garden to rear

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Haywood Grange, Little — £295,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented link detached property offering flexible accommodation with three double bedrooms and the possibility to convert a ground floor reception room to a bedroom. Having Three Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Study, Fitted Kitchen and Utility. Two Bathrooms and Four

Springfield Avenue, Rugeley — £95,000

● ●●CASH BUYERS ONLY●● JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached family home, being offered with NO●● UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation having Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Inner Lobby to Guest W.C. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Shower Room. Driveway

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley — £279,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this four / five bedroom detached home, in a quiet cul de sac location.Having Hallway, Guest w.c, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Kitchen and Bedroom Four. Landing,Two Bedrooms with En Suite,Bedroom and Bathroom.Driveway and Garden to rear

Main Road, Brereton — £239,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented two bedroom detached bungalow, located on a private drive. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Hallway, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Inner Hall to Two Bedrooms and Shower Room. Good driveway to Detached Garage and Garden to rear

Bagnall Way, Hawksyard — £174,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this modern three bedroom end terraced home, on the sought after Hawksyard Estate. Having Entrance Hallway, Guest w.c, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen and Conservatory. Landing to Bedroom with En Suite, Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway and Garden

Church Street, Rugeley — £249,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this detached traditional bungalow situated on a large garden plot offering lots of potential and scope for improvement/development (all subject to planning). Offered with No Upward Chain the bungalow requires modernisation and features double glazing and gas central heating.

St Anthonys Close, Rugeley — £195,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom link detached home,located in a quiet cul de sac,close to town centre.Being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN and having Porch, Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen. Landing ,Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens and Driveway to Garage

Moss Green, Rugeley — £150,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented three bedroom semi detached home, being close to local amenities and NO UPWARD CHAIN.Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge,Dining Room and Refitted Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Tandem Garage and Gardens

Hednesford Road, Rugeley — £249,950

● JR Properties are pleased to market this traditional three bedroom detached home, offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Porch, Entrance Hallway, Shower Room, Two Reception Rooms and Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Refitted Bathroom.Driveway to Garage and Good sized Garden

Antler Drive, Etching Hill — £235,000

● JR Properties are pleased to market this well presented three bedroom detached family home, in a sought after location. Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Separate W.C. Driveway to Garage and Gardens to front and rear

Chester Road, Rugeley — £269,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this four bedroom detached family home, being situated in a quiet cul de sac.Having Entrance Hallway, Guest w.c, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen and Utility. Two Bedrooms with En Suite, Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom.Drive to Garage and Gardens

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NEW

HEATH HAYES
STRAUSS DRIVE

- Modern Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommend

£230,000

NEW

CHESLYN HAY
HAWKS CLOSE

- Extended Semi
- Lounge/Diner
- REFITTED Kitchen
- Guests WC
- 4 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garage, Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

£210,000

CANNOCK
ANDOVER PLACE

- Semi Detached
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended

£130,000

CANNOCK
LOVATT PLACE

- Modern Town House
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Parking Spaces
- Gardens

£129,950

HEDNESFORD
RAYDEN COURT

- Grd Floor Apartment
- Communal Hall
- Open-Plan Lounge Dining Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- NO CHAIN

£75,000

NEW

CANNOCK
HARRISON ROAD

- Semi Detached
- Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Rear Garden

£130,000

REDUCED

HEATH HAYES
BANK STREET

- Traditional Semi
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden

£120,000

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Railway Court, Norton Canes

Offers Around £50,000

Well Presented Apartment	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	45% Shared Ownership
Lounge	EPC B

Teddesley Way, Huntington

Offers Around £140,000

Terraced Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Conservatory
Lounge	Awaiting EPC

Ashdale Close, Huntington

OIEO £135,000

Semi Detached Property	Conservatory & Garage
Two Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Good Potential	EPC C

Blake Close, Cannock

Offers Around £149,995

Semi Detached Property	Conservatory
Three Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge	EPC D

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Pye Green Road, Cannock

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Detached Property	Dining Room
Three Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	Awaiting EPC

Rugeley Road, Armitage

Offers Around £260,000

Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	EPC B

High Street, Wheaton Aston

Offers Around £300,000

Semi Detached Property	Conservatory
Four Bedrooms	Detached Garage
Three Reception Rooms	Awaiting EPC

Canterbury Drive, Rugeley

Offers Around £300,000

Detached Property	Conservatory
Four Bedrooms	Viewing Highly Recommended
Kitchen Diner	EPC C

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£950,000

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GREAT WYRLEY

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£439,950

Littleworth Road
RAWNSLEY

Five bedroom detached family home / NO UPWARD CHAIN / Breakfast kitchen / Drive for more than ten vehicles / Enclosed rear garden / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £420,000

Chaseley Road
RUGELEY

Four bed luxury detached house / Kitchen-breakfast area / Integral garage / En-suite to master / Block drive for several vehicles

£419,950

Prospect Manor Court
HEDNESFORD

Spacious detached family home with four double bedrooms / Open plan breakfast kitchen / Useful study room / Detached double garage and driveway / Good sized private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £350,000

Adelaide Drive
WIMBLEBURY

Immaculately presented five bedroom detached family home / Finished to a high modern standard throughout / Superb open plan high spec kitchen-diner / Driveway providing ample parking

Offers in the Region Of £335,000

Sweetbriar Way
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented executive family home / Enviable secluded plot / Tastefully decorated throughout / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Four reception rooms

£335,000

Sweetbriar Way
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented executive family home / Set on good sized corner plot / Tastefully decorated throughout / Open plan kitchen-diner / Newly fitted high spec kitchen

Offers in Excess of £325,000

Eaton Croft
RUGELEY

Executive four bedroom detached house / exclusive private gated road / spacious living & sleeping accommodation / private rear garden / four car driveway / modern throughout

Offers in the Region Of £325,000

Brownhills Road
NORTON CANES

Four/five bedroom detached house / Four-five bedroom detached house / Large South facing private rear garden / New modern fitted breakfast kitchen and bathroom

£325,000

Rawnsley Road
HEDNESFORD

Three bedroom character property / Peaceful semi rural location / Stunning panoramic views of the surrounding countryside / Stunning panoramic views of the surrounding countryside

£325,000

St Christopher Close
RAWNSLEY

Immaculately presented four bedroom detached family home / Enivable corner plot in quiet cul-de-sac / Tastefully decorated & finished to high modern standard / Driveway for up to six vehicles /

£295,000

Newhall Street
CANNOCK

Three bedroom period property / Highly sought after location / Several reception rooms / Charming private rear garden / Larger than average garage and driveway with off road parking

Offers in the Region Of £290,000

Slitting Mill Road
ETCHING HILL

Immaculately presented five bedroom family home / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Set over three storys / Delightful rural area of Slitting Mill / Stunning views of the surrounding countryside

£275,000

Bond Way
HEDNESFORD

Five bedroom detached house / Set within a quiet cul-de-sac / Sought after residential area / Four car driveway / Modern fitted kitchen

Offers in Excess of £272,000

Kingscroft
WIMBLEBURY

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Good sized corner plot down a quiet cul-de-sac / Superb open plan lounge-diner ideal for entertaining / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen

£270,000

Chester Road
RUGELEY

Spacious & superbly maintained four bedroom detached house / Set on modern sought after development / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Large breakfast kitchen / En-suite to master

£265,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Four bedroom detached house / Set on extremely sought after modern residential area / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen & bathrooms / Private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £260,000

Levett Grange
RUGELEY

Immaculately presented detached family home / Sought after location / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern breakfast kitchen, bathroom & en-suite

£260,000

Wellington Drive
CANNOCK

Extended & immaculately presented three bedroom detached bungalow / Finished to good standard / Superb open plan dining kitchen / Spacious lounge & bedrooms / Useful attic room

Offers in the Region Of £255,000

Grouse Way
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented three bedroom detached family home / Sought after location / Open plan dining-kitchen / Three double bedrooms / Driveway and garage providing ample off road parking

£239,950

Holly Lane
GREAT WYRLEY

Well presented and superbly maintained four bedroom semi detached house / Extended to both front & rear / Useful loft conversion offering storage space / NO ONWARD CHAIN

£230,000

Huntington Terrace Road
CANNOCK

Four bedroom family home / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Large ground floor extension / Garage and driveway with parking for several vehicles

£225,000

Marigold Close
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three bedroom detached house / Set down sought after cul-de-sac / Open plan lounge / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen / South facing private rear garden with conservatory / En-suite to

Offers in Excess of £220,000

Green Heath Road
HEDNESFORD

Charming three bedroom character property / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms / Double garage-workshop plus driveway / Stylish modern re-fitted kitchen and re-fitted bathroom

£210,000

Lapwing Close
CHESLYN HAY

Immaculately presented three bedroom detached house /End of a quiet cul-de-sac close to a nature trail / Tastefully decorated and finished to a high standard / Victorian style conservatory / Driveway

Offers in the Region Of £210,000

Rudyard Way
BRIDGTOWN

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Spacious lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen / Good sized bedrooms / Private rear garden / NHBC guarantee / Integral garage & off road parking

Offers in Excess of £200,000

High Mount Street
HEDNESFORD

Detached three bedroom house / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Spacious lounge-diner / Rear conservatory / Large master bedroom with en-suite

£197,500

Radnor Rise
HEDNESFORD

Three bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac location / Spacious lounge-diner / Modern breakfast kitchen / Victorian conservatory

£194,950

Grange Road
NORTON CANES

Three bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Short walk away from Chasewater / Spacious living and sleeping accommodation / Open plan kitchen-diner

£190,000

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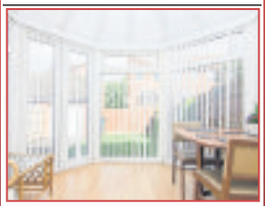

Three Bedroom End Terrace House / Quiet Cul-De-Sac With A Green To Front / Modern Breakfast Kitchen / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Victorian Style Conservatory

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Foxhill Close
HEATH HAYES

Spacious three bedroom semi detached house / Sought after residential area / Set on large corner plot within quiet cul-de-sac / Private rear garden / Garage & driveway with parking for several

Offers in Excess of £170,000

Somerset Avenue
RUGELEY

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house / Tastefully decorated and finished to a high standard / Welcoming reception hallway / Superb new fitted modern kitchen

£165,000

Windsor Close
RUGELEY

Well presented three bedroom town house / Set over three floors / Three double bedrooms / Two separate bathrooms / Good sized open plan lounge-diner / Private rear garden / Parking for two vehicles

Offers in Excess of £165,000

Priory Road
HEDNESFORD

Spacious three bedroom semi-detached house / Superb open plan lounge-diner / Good sized bedrooms / Charming tiered private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £160,000

Harrow Close
BRERETON

Three bedroom detached house / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / NHBC guarantee with 3-4 years remaining / Tastefully decorated lounge-diner,

Offers in the Region Of £160,000

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£300,000	£6,480	£2,860	£3,630
£500,000	£10,800	£4,760	£6,050

*Standard Estate Agents Fee Staffordshire @2.16% Inc VAT. Source. Rightmove (April 2017)

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Gorsey Lane
GREAT WYRLEY

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Impressive open plan kitchen diner / Two car driveway / Mature private south facing rear garden / Two double bedrooms / Modern fitted full bathroom

£150,000

Lovatt Place
CANNOCK

Three bedroom semi detached house / no onward chain / Quiet cul-de-sac location / Open plan lounge-diner / Driveway and single garage providing off road parking

£146,950

Fieldhouse Road
HEDNESFORD

Traditional three bedroom semi detached house / Large private rear garden / Superb re-fitted modern kitchen-diner / Spacious lounge and bedrooms with en-suite to the master

Offers in the Region Of £145,000

Huntington Terrace Road
CANNOCK

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house / Undergone a good level of renovation and refurbishment / Superb new fitted kitchen-diner / Spacious living and sleeping

£140,000

Pine View
RUGELEY

Three bedroom semi detached house / Entrance porch / Open plan kitchen-diner / Shared driveway with access to rear garage / Parking space / Lawn offering further parking

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Hall Lane
GREAT WYRLEY

Three bedroom semi detached house / Modern fitted open plan breakfast kitchen / Two further reception rooms / Low maintenance private rear garden.

£140,000

Stag Crescent
NORTON CANES

Spacious three bedroom semi detached dormer style property / Set on large corner plot / Front, side & rear gardens / Lounge-diner & dining kitchen / Driveway & garage

Auction Guide Price £140,000

North Street
BRIDGTOWN

Immaculately presented two bedroom mid-terraced house / Refurbished to a high standard throughout / Landscaped private rear garden and courtyard / Spacious living and sleeping accommodation

£130,000

Pheasant Way
HEATH HAYES

Modern sought after development / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Two double bedrooms / Spacious lounge-diner / Off road allocated parking

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Bank Street
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom end terraced house / Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom / Private rear garden / Two good sized reception rooms

£120,000

The Hollies
CHESLYN HAY

Modern two bedroom first floor apartment / Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious open plan living area / Good size bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Woottons Court
CANNOCK

Spacious two bedroom first floor apartment / Revovated & refurbished /Lounge & kitchen / Allocated & visitor parking / Communal gardens / EPC: C

£94,950

Barnard Way
CANNOCK

Two bedroom ground floor maisonette / Exciting investment opportunity / Available with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £500 PCM

£87,500

Longacres
HEDNESFORD

Well presented one bedroom first floor maisonette / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Off road parking for one vehicle / Garage for storage / Ideal for first time buyers & investors

£85,000

Sandpiper Close
HEDNESFORD

One bedroom ground floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Modern fitted kitchen / Modern fitted kitchen / Allocated parking space

Offers in the Region Of £75,000

Brooklyn Road
HEATH HAYES

One bedroom first floor maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers or investors / Very low ground rent, Insurance & maintenance rates / New carpets and new windows

Offers in Excess of £70,000

Bevan Lee Road
CANNOCK

Commercial property; an exciting retail opportunity / Previously a convenience store / Can also be used as hair dresser or pet groomers

Auction Guide Price £50,000

Violet Close
HUNTINGTON

modern two bedroom second floor apartment / 40% shared ownership / Spacious lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom / Off road allocated parking

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WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

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- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Electric Heaters
- Off Road Parking
- Energy Rating G

£350 pcm

CECIL STREET, CANNOCK

- 2 Bed Terraced
- Lounge/Dining room
- Kitchen/Utility
- Garden
- Energy rating E
- NO DSS/Pets

£475 pcm

BLAKE CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- Two Bedroom Semi
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- GSH & DG
- NO DSS OR PETS

£525

WATERBROOK WAY, BRIDGTOWN

- 2 Bed Town House
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Garden, Parking
- Energy Rating C
- NO DSS/Pets

£575 pcm

HEDNESFORD STREET, CANNOCK

- One Bedroom Basement Flat
- Open Plan
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking

£425 pcm

PATTERDALE ROAD, CANNOCK

- 2 Bed Semi Detached
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Driveway
- Garage
- GCH & DG

£575

DARTMOUTH MEWS, CANNOCK

- 2 Bed FF Apartment
- Lounge/kitchen
- Under floor heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Energy rating B
- NO DSS/Pets

£595 Pcm

HEDNESFORD STREET, CANNOCK

- 2 Bed SFF
- Lounge, Kitchen
- GCH/DG
- Allocated Parking
- Energy Rating C
- No DSS/Pets

£600 pcm

HARDIE GREEN, CHADSMOOR

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom, GCH, DG
- Gardens
- EPC
- NO DSS OR PETS

£600 pcm

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

- COMMERCIAL
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- Gas Central Heating

£650 pcm

WORDSWORTH CLOSE, ARMITAGE

- Three Bed Detached
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Conservatory
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- GCH, DG, Garage
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS OR PETS

£800 pcm

PEBBLE MILL DRIVE, CANNOCK

- Four Bed Detached
- Sought After Location
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Bathroom & WC
- GCH & DG
- Gardens & Driveway
- Energy Rating C

£900 pcm

OLD HEDNESFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- A Fully Refurbished Detached Family Residence.
- Reception Hall, Guest WC, Lounge
- Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Utility
- Spacious Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Four Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage, Detached Garage, Driveway, Front, Side & Rear Gardens

£365,000

MALLARD WAY, PENKRIDGE

- Superbly Presented Detached Family House
- Entrance Hall, Guest WC, Lounge, Study
- Dining Room/ Family Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen & Utility
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Ensuite & Bathroom
- Gardens & Driveway

£310,000

DAISY BANK, HEDNESFORD

- A Much Improved & Extremely Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Extended Lounge, Family Dining Room
- Guest WC, Utility Room
- Impressive Re-Fitted Kitchen, Side Reception Hall
- Study/ Bedroom Five, Four First Floor Bedrooms

£275,000

RADNOR RISE, HEDNESFORD

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- A Deceptively Spacious Semi Detached House Positioned on a Corner Plot
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room
- Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room, Double Garage
- Generous Gardens, Space for

£220,000 NO CHAIN

KNIGHTON ROAD, WIMBLEBURY

- A Well Presented Link Detached House
- Lounge. Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen, Four Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
- Garage & Driveway
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Open Aspect to Side & Rear
- No Upward Chain

£215,000

KINGSWOOD DRIVE, NORTON CANES

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- An Extremely Well Presented Link Detached House
- Family Lounge, Dining Room
- Sun Room, Impressive Re-Fitted Kitchen/ Diner
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden, Driveway

£204,995

HILLSIDE CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Lounge & Conservatory
- Kitchen & Family Room
- Ground Floor Bedroom/ Ensuite Shower
- Four Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Master with Dressing Room/Study
- Driveway & Rear Garden

£199,995

CHURCH ROAD, NORTON CANES

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Family Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Well Stocked Rear Garden With Open Views
- Driveway & Garage

OIRO £199,950

STONEYFIELDS CLOSE, CANNOCK

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- A Well Presented Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen
- Lounge, Shower Room
- Two Bedrooms,
- Conservatory
- Attractive Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage, Ample Driveway
- Viewing Essential

£190,000

HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD, CANNOCK

- A deceptively spacious well presented detached house
- Porch, entrance hall, extended kitchen/diner
- Utility Room, Guest WC
- Family Lounge, Generous Conservatory
- Three bedrooms, shower room
- Delightful rear gardens, driveway
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

Offers in Excess of £180,000

PYE GREEN ROAD, CANNOCK

VIEWING ESSENTIAL

- Extended and Much Improved Bungalow
- Reception Hall & Family Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area
- Impressive Conservatory
- Two Double Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Driveway & Gardens

£163,995

GRANGE CRESCENT, PENKRIDGE

- A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Popular Location
- Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom
- Attractive Gardens & Parking at Rear
- Viewing Recommended

£165,000

EAST STREET, BRIDGTOWN

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- A Modern Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance House, Spacious Family Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen Diner, Guest WC
- Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite & Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden & Parking at Rear

£160,000

PEBBLE MILL COURT, CANNOCK

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- Well Presented Ground Floor Flat
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- Parking & Garage
- Communal Gardens
- Ideal Location

£142,500

MORETON STREET, CANNOCK

- A Spacious Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Kitchen, Spacious Lounge
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Seperate WC
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway

£135,000 No Chain

HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD, CANNOCK

- A Spacious Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking at Rear
- Gardens

£120,000 No Chain

MOSS GREEN, RUGELEY

- A very well presented three bedroom mid terraced house
- GCH & D/G
- Entrance Hall, Spacious Kitchen/Diner
- Family Lounge
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens, Garage
- No Chain

£118,500NO CHAIN

MEADOWBROOK CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- A modern well presented ground floor apartment
- GCH & D/G
- Open plan lounge & Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite & bathroom
- Allocated parking & communal gardens
- NO CHAIN

£109,950

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Octavia is a lot of car for the money

By John Griffiths

Sheer space is a key virtue of Skoda's new Octavia Estate – just what's needed for carrying away all the silverware this latest model has won since its launch earlier this year.

It's a lot of car for the money, it scores highly on reliability and like its siblings from VW and Audi it's now packed with the latest safety, entertainment and connectivity systems.

The Octavia has long been Skoda's biggest seller and a remarkable ambassador for the brand, and unsurprisingly the majority will be bought by fleet operators.

It's reputation for reliability is impressive: the Skoda is a popular choice, for example, for taxi operators where any time off the road is doubly expensive. And talking to some drivers, a 200,000 mile Octavia is by no means rare and I've even ridden in one with 400,000 miles on the clock.

The 2017 car comes at prices from £17,055 to £30,085 and in hatchback and estate, six engines and seven trim levels to choose from. Models include the luxury Laurin & Klement, the 245Ps sporting version, the vRS, and the four wheel drive Scout. The model tested was the midrange SE L Estate, powered by the familiar 150Ps (148bhp) 2.0 litre turbo diesel, priced at £24,565.

The car has undergone a midlife makeover, with the most striking change on the outside being the new 'quad light' set up – LED headlights are standard on SE L trim and above. There are also hints of the styling of Skoda's latest model, the Kodiaq SUV.

However it's on the inside, with a whole range of new technology, where the biggest improvements are seen, including a choice of two of the latest infotainment systems. Other new systems, such as trailer assist, build on the Octavia's safety and practicality.

Practicality is the key word when it comes to the Octavia, with room inside to comfortably accommodate five people plus (in estate form) 610 litres of luggage space, rising to 1,740 with the rear seats folded. That's better than some rivals in a size class above, such as the Ford Mondeo.

The test car also offered an excellent blend of performance and economy: the figures are 0 to 62mph in 8.5 seconds and an official average of 65.7mpg (CO2 113g/km). On a 120-mile journey I achieved an impressive 59mpg on a mix of motorway, A-road and rush hour traffic – the auto stop start helps in such fuel-sapping conditions.

But, as usual, the figures don't tell the whole story. It's the way the Skoda performs which makes a lasting impression.

Progress on all roads is quiet and smooth, as you relax in generous alcantara and leather seats with the benefit of dual zone air conditioning, It's very relaxing, too. The car's essential dynamics of roadholding and cornering inspire confidence: it's capable in an understated sort of way, tackling twisty roads competently without the harsh ride of some 'sporty' rivals.

An electronic differential originally designed for the group's sportier models helps to keep you on the right lines in a variety of testing conditions.

The overall impression is that you're at the wheel of a so-called 'premium' car – albeit one that costs a lot less than many an example of that genre. There is an expanse of rather dull plastic in front fo the driver and passenger, but it's broken up by gloss black and stainless steel features as well as the central screen and controls.

At the touch of a button you can make some changes to its character with eco, normal sport and custom driving modes (my 59mpg was achieved in 'normal' mode).

The test car was fitted with the higher grade 'Amundsen' centre colour screen with touch and gesture control, on which setting the satnav is simple and intuitive (rather more so than that on another manufacturer's estate previously tested which cost twice as much).

The top of the range 'Columbus' navigation system (plus Wifi) and larger 9.2 inch screen fitted to the test car is a £1,050 option.

The infotainment, phone and connectivity systems include full integration with your smartphone and online services. Voice control is also a feature. Like sibling Audi and VW models, the Octavia also has a comprehensive info screen in the driver's instrument cluster, with a wide range of trip information plus simple navigation prompts. Phone, audio, trip and cruise control functions can be selected by fingertip controls on the steering wheel and column.

The list of equipment is a long one, including multiple airbags, electric folding mirrors, electric windows, headlamp washers, fog lights, parking sensors tinted glass, split/fold rear seats and cruise control among others.

A tyre pressure warning system and driver fatigue warning (if your driving becomes erratic) are also on the list along with expected items such as stability and tracion controls.

Not to be forgotten is a Skoda tradition – the umbrella under the passenger seat,

The rear view camera system fitted to the test car added £375 to the list price. You need that if you choose to have trailer and park assist, a clever but simple to operate semi-autonomous system to make reversing with a trailer much easier.

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE SE, £24,565

Skoda's new Octavia Estate is packed with the latest safety, entertainment and connectivity systems

The car took more silverware in the 2017 Tow Car Awards, earning a five-star rating in the cars up to 1,400kg category. The estate also won its class in the latest Diesel Car awards.

While the 2.0 litre, 150Ps diesel is likely to be a popular choice, the alternatives include two turbocharged petrol engines, a 1.0 litre, 115Ps and 1.4, 150Ps, plus a 1.6 litre diesel. There are also petrol and diesel choices for the sporty vRS, with power outputs from 184 to 245Ps.

Price, space and practicality are a brand of virtues which have made the Octavia a very familiar sight on our roads – the company has made well over 3.6 million of them so far and the model was Skoda's biggest seller in a record year in 2016.

With a new look and the latest technology, its success in the future seems assured.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 31.0 (9.1) to 72.4 (3.9); Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2), Combined 38.2 (7.4) to 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range in mpg are 170 to 90 g/km. The advertised range is correct as of 29 May 2017 and is subject to change. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Double win for Volvo Car UK at awards

Volvo Car UK triumphed twice at the recent inaugural Auto Trader New Car Awards, being awarded 'Green car of the year' for the XC90 T8 Twin Engine and 'Car brand with best features' for the company as a whole. The firm's V40 premium hatchback also made the final three for the overall 'New car of the year' title.

An awards ceremony with a difference, Auto Trader's New Car Awards are mainly based not on editorial decision-making but on a huge amount of data collected from real-life buyers of new cars. That Volvo won two out of the 10 categories is proof that its products are being extremely well received by its customers.

The Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine couples a 320 hp, 2.0-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine with an 87 hp electric motor to produce a combined 407 hp, while delivering CO2 emissions of just 49 g/km. Capable of travelling up to 27 miles on battery power alone in Pure mode, the XC90 T8 Twin Engine also has an incredibly competitive BIK rating of nine per cent, making it the ideal car for commuters who regularly cover longer distances.

The XC90 T8 Twin Engine's title of 'Green car of the year' was awarded by virtue of the car having the highest rating in Auto Trader's expert reviews of any car with CO2 emissions of 50 g/km or less. Meanwhile, the award for 'Car brand with best features' demonstrates that Volvo's commitment to making people's lives safer and less complicated is winning over the public.

New car owners were asked to rate the importance of certain features to them, such as navigation, smartphone integration and air conditioning. Overall, Volvo owners were the most satisfied with each of these features in their own cars – a particularly strong endorsement of the firm's latest Sensus connectivity system, which is now compatible with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The Volvo V40 premium hatchback

The XC90 T8 Twin Engine won 'Green car of the year'

The Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine Momentum also won the first ever 'Best Hybrid' award at the Tow Car Awards

Andy Pringle, Auto Trader's Cars Editor, said: "The Auto Trader New Car Awards celebrate new cars on the market that are truly admired by those who matter most: their owners.

Picking up awards for 'Car brand with best features' and 'Green car of the year', Volvo proves to be a car brand that strikes a chord with its owners, and both of these awards demonstrate how Volvo continues to future-proof this with innovative technology and desirable alternative-fuel models."

The V40's shortlisting for the overall 'New car of the year' title – voted for by owners for the most satisfying new car to own in the UK – is a notable success for a car that has been on sale since 2012, yet still has a huge amount to offer as a new purchase.

The Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine Momentum also won the first ever 'Best Hybrid' award at the Tow Car Awards.

The seven-seat XC90 was praised for its excellent performance, its stability, handling and braking when towing, and for its practical boot.

The testers were also impressed with the amount of room the XC90 T8 offers – its hybrid batteries are stored between the front seats, so they don't compromise the available cabin space, unlike in many hybrid cars.

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Lexus comes out on top in Auto Express survey

High public esteem for Lexus for across-the-board quality and appeal of its model range

Lexus has been named "best manufacturer" in Auto Express's 2017 Driver Power survey, an accolade that reflects high public esteem for the across-the-board quality and appeal of its model range.

The survey's findings are based on the real-world experiences of thousands of new car owners and their opinions placed Lexus highest in four out of nine qualifying categories, giving the luxury brand overall top ranking with a score of 92.29 per cent.

Graham Hope, Auto Express editor, said: "Lexus has deservedly been crowned best car manufacturer by our readers with a set of results that demonstrates the brand's all-round appeal, being voted number one in areas as diverse as exterior styling, engine and gearbox performance and reliability and build quality.

"We've always known Lexus builds great quality cars, but there's now an added dose of desirability to the range, too.

"It's no surprise that owners are so happy with their purchases."

Recognition

Ewan Shepherd, Lexus UK director, said: "This a huge reward for Lexus and great recognition of how we are successfully pushing new boundaries in design and technology, making high-quality cars that have stand-out styling, are rewarding to drive and are genuinely desirable to own.

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14 plate

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11 plate

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10 plate

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14 plate

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16/16 Ford Focus 1.0 E/B 100 Zetec App Pk	£11,699
12/62 Ford Focus 1.0 E/B 125 Zetec App Pk	£8,499
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16/66 Ford Focus 1.5 TDCi ST-Line App Pk2	£14,599
15/15 Ford Focus 1.5 TDCi T Nav	£11,399
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13 plate

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14/14 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi T X Nav	£9,999
12/62 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec App Pk	£7,599
15/64 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec Nav	£10,699
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13 plate

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64 plate

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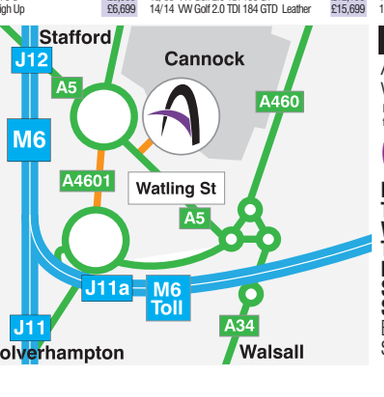

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Mazda's CX-5 offers a touch of class

By Ian Donaldson

MAZDA CX-5 2.2 150PS 2WD SPORT NAV DIESEL, £28,695

MAZDA is launching a stealth attack on the premium SUV sector with its latest CX-5, taking over from the model that was the company's biggest seller in the UK, writes Ian Donaldson.

And the way you convince people your car is a class act is to make it quieter, says the company aiming to take sales away from the likes of VW and, whisper it, even Audi.

So the new car is heavier than the old one, in a world where brownie points are won by making cars lighter, because so much extra sonic deadening has been applied.

Nearly 50kgs, to be precise, or the weight of two extremely heavily loaded suitcases. And what a difference it makes, adding instant hush to a cabin that generates so little racket at speed you might never raise your voice again (except perhaps to tell the kids in the back to quieten down).

This hush-hush push is one of the ways you'll tell new CX-5 from old, and so is the body shape, although you might need to pose both versions side by side to notice.

Every exterior panel has been changed but Mazda has been understandably careful to preserve the lines of a car that sold partly because it looked so good in the first place. It still does, but with thinner LED headlights and sharper creases adding a touch of classy drama.

Inside, all is changed too but Mazda has kept the sense of order you feel in all its cars, so there is a lot of nicely applied blackness, set off a little by a dash insert that looks like the viciously expensive layering of a Japanese knife. It works well and, yes, adds to the premium feel dust Mazda is keen to sprinkle on the newcomer.

Adding class has added to the bottom line too, with prices up and now starting at £23,695 for a slow selling petrol version, a £200 lift. The likely biggest seller, the diesel CX-5 with 150 horsepower engine and front-wheel drive is up £900 and now costs from £25,695. The range tops out at £33,195 for a 175 horsepower car with automatic gears and all-wheel drive in Sport trim.

That is unless you are tempted by one of the pleasantly few options. There is only one non-chargeable paint (a flat white) so any other finish will cost at least £560, with a new version of Mazda's fetching and popular soul red adding a hefty £800.

Engines

Beneath the familiar but all-new body beat a trio of engines carried over from the previous car; a 2.0 litre 165 horsepower petrol unit and a couple of 2.256.5/ litre diesels with either 150 or 175 horsepower.

Their respective CO2 emissions are 149/132/142 g/km and official average fuel consumption 44.1/56.5/52.3 mpg – all as you'd expect and well in line with the opposition.

There are two trim levels, with SE-L Nav offering 17 ins alloys, cruise control, DAB radio and Bluetooth, a navigation system with three years free European map updates and dual-zone climate control.

Move up to Sport Nav and for an extra £3,000 you add 19 ins alloy wheels, reversing camera, powered tailgate, power adjustment for the driver's seat, black leather trim, head up display in the windscreen, heated steering wheel and a glass tilt and slide sunroof on the 175 horsepower model. There's also a 10 speaker Bose sound system, heard all the better in the newly quietened interior.

Tempting options are few but include stone coloured leather in place of black for £200 on Sport Nav models, radar cruise control (£800) and a safety pack (£800) that includes adaptive LED headlights, lane keeping assist (easily switched off it annoys you) and rear cross traffic alert, to warn as you back onto a busy road.

Mazda's new car is heavier than the old one because so much extra sonic deadening has been applied

Most drivers will spend their three years or so with the 150 horsepower diesel doing the donkey work. They will find it a pleasantly refined companion, only raising its voice when really provoked, which you rarely need to do.

It showed 44mpg on a demanding and briskly driven Scottish test route and a typically Mazda-slick manual gearchange made the car feel even mildly sporty, with a nicely damped ride to go with it.

A more powerful 175 horsepower diesel, driven more gently but with automatic gears, showed the same 44mpg but felt much less responsive than the more modestly powered model. It did feel notably refined and grown up, though.

The much less in demand petrol engine lacked the low down punch of the diesels (as expected, of course) but its lighter front end made the steering usefully more eager and the cabin stayed hushed even when the engine was working hard.

A gentle main road drive ended with the best economy of the lot, at 48mpg. The diesels would have done better still.

So, a choice of economical engines in a handsome car that drives well and is drawing room quiet inside. No wonder more than half all new Mazdas sold here will be one of them.

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By Dave Brown

PEUGEOT 308GT, £25,010

We're big fans of the 308 hatchback and estate and although it has proved a sought-after member of the Peugeot range here in the UK, it hasn't quite hit the heights it has reached in its home country, where it sits proudly at the top of its segment in terms of popularity.

On this side of the channel, it is certainly in the top 10, but, as the company admits, 'closer to 10 than one'. Perhaps the comprehensive refresh and price reductions announced this summer will get things moving in the right direction.

The car has new, sharper styling and Peugeot's latest efficient engines and touchscreen connectivity. On the outside, there is an imposing new vertical grille and LED daytime running lights. Inside, Peugeot's i-Cockpit includes a 9.7-inch touchscreen, equipped with 3D satnav and new graphics. The new car builds on the EuroNCAP five-star rating its predecessor achieved with enhanced safety tech to bring it in line with its widely-admired 3008 SUV.

The new car looks great. Sharp, stylish and imposing, it will appeal to parents who are happy with family life but haven't totally forgotten what it's like to have fun behind the wheel. New elliptical headlamps come with integral LED daytime running lights while the rear lights have a distinctive three-claw shape.

Short front and rear overhangs make the car very maneuverable and contribute to excellent road-holding ability.

Allure, GT Line and GT models feature a large glass roof as standard. Comfort levels are fine inside and everything is of a nice

The car offers parents a bit of fun

quality – there is plenty of room for mum, dad and the kids, although some rivals do offer more space.

Inside the car, not too much has changed over the previous incarnation, with the cabin plush and comfortable. As we've mentioned, the i-Cockpit looks great and adds a sporty feel to a family car but might not be wholly visible through the steering wheel for drivers of certain heights and builds.

The materials used are of high quality, giving the car a welcome, premium feel.

But practicality is key for family buyers of course and the estate features the largest load space in its class (660 litres with the parcel shelf in place; a whopping 1,775 litres with the rear seats folded and the parcel shelf removed).

We had the chance to take the 308 GT on a spin along Germany's fast-paced autobahns, and around the twisty mountain roads on the Germany/Austria border, not far from Salzburg.

It coped with everything we threw at it and provided a genuinely enjoyable and

The 308 has new, sharper styling and Peugeot's latest efficient engines and touchscreen connectivity

absorbing drive. The i-Cockpit infotainment system works well, while the gearbox is taut and quick and you feel in complete control as you enjoy the drive, try to admire the view from time to time, and dodge the many cyclists and hikers enjoying the scenery.

The Peugeot 308 has seen price reductions of, on average, £650 compared to equivalent models in the outgoing range. In some cases, savings of more than £1,000 can be made. This is a nod perhaps to the fact that the first incarnation of the car hasn't sold as well as hoped in the UK and Peugeot is looking to make up ground on key rivals.

Spec levels are generous, and connectivity is king with the new 308. Safety is to the fore, too, with a range of advanced driver assistance systems such as distance alert and intelligent emergency braking assistance.

Who would buy one? Families, families and more families… at least that's what Peugeot is hoping. Professional people who want something a bit different style-wise but can easily communicate on the move will also be drawn in, no doubt, and the GT and GTi models will appeal to younger drivers too (and people who are young at heart).

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GHENT
Mark
A much loved Son
Passed away June 16, 2017.

This is for someone wonderful, as loved as one could be, for you were everything in life, you meant the world to us you see and sometimes life can be so unkind, when hearts are torn in two but nothing can compare, to the pain of losing you. But all the love that you have left behind, forever will live on and so until we meet again.

Rest peacefully dear Son
All our love and God bless
Mom and Dad.
X X

GLYNN
Paul Thomas

Beloved Husband of Valerie, Father of Kevin, Susan and Caroline passed away peacefully on Saturday June 17, 2017 at St. Giles Hospice, aged 82 years.

A loving Grandad.

He is sadly missed by all his Family and Friends, may he rest in peace.

Donations to St. Giles Hospice, Lichfield and The Asbestos Support Group (wmht.co.uk.)

All inquiries c/o
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WORT
John William

Passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 17, 2017, aged 85 years.

Much loved and sadly missed by all his Family and many Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Monday, July 10, at 2pm at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, can be made for The Alzheimers Society.

All inquiries c/o
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Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

EDWARDS
Donald

Sadly passed away, June 10, 2017, aged 86.

He will be very sadly missed by all his loving Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place 3.30pm on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, at Stafford Crematorium.

By request Family flowers only, donations for Ward 12 County Hospital, Stafford may be sent c/o

The co-operative funeralcare
17 Brindley Road, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1DN
01889 582343

GHENT
Mark Cyril

Passed away peacefully at St Giles Hospice surrounded by his loving Family on June 16, 2017, aged 48 years.

He will be greatly missed by all his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to be held at St Luke's Church, Cannock, on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at 11am, followed by Burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Flowers welcome or donations for St Giles Hospice if desired.

Mark's Family would like everyone to join them at Hednesford Football Club afterwards for refreshments and to share memories of Mark.

HALLIWELL
Funeral Service
70 Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
Cannock
WS12 3EA
01543 459200.

acknowledgements

PARKER
Brenda Jean

Chris would like to thank Family, Friends and Neighbours for messages of sympathy and kindness shown at this sad time.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Funeral, special thanks to Funeral Celebrant, Colin Robertson, for a lovely Service.

Thank you to Alison, the heart nurse and New Cross Ward C41 for all their professional care and kindness to Jean.

God bless you All.

deaths

CRAIGIE SMITH
John
(Jack)
Of Hednesford.

Passed away peacefully surrounded by his Family on June 20, 2017, aged 81 years.

The devoted Husband of Betty and beloved Dad of Kevin, Neal and Dawn.

Also a loving Grandad, Uncle Father-in-law and Friend.

All Funeral details from the Funeral Directors.

The funeral care has been entrustedto

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Eg (4pm Thursday)

Through July and August Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

birthday remembrances

COWIE
Dorothy
Ninety, June 26.

Not a day goes by that we don't think of you.

Miss you, love you always.

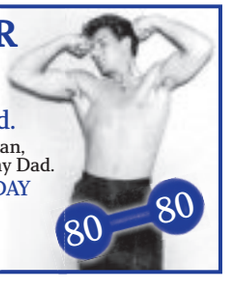
Happy birthday Mom.

Children Heather, Sheena, Paul and Partners, Grandchildren and Great -Granddaughter Enya Dottie.

birthdays

TAYLOR
Sid
80
To a wonderful Dad and Grandad.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Love Julie, George, Lee, Wesley and Alice.
X X X

TAYLOR
Sid
30.06.17
80 years old.
This gorgeous man, I'm proud to say is my Dad.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
All my love
Donna
X X X



TAYLOR
Sid
30.06.17
80 years old
To my dear Husband.
A very Happy Birthday Darling.
All my love, as always
Rita
X X

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN HOSPITAL STREET, WALSALL
20 x 1 bedroom self contained flats
£450PCM.
3 Studio apartments at
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One months rent up front.
Please contact Mr Hill on
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It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

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overseas property

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7 Jobs

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CANNOCK CONSERVATIVE CLUB Bar Staff required. Wed lunch, Fri & Sat nights + holiday cover. Telephone 01543 502317.

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BRICKLAYING GANGS required. Excellent rates. Houses - Cannock area. Call 07860 202442.

EXPERIENCED FENCERS required. Rates negotiable, long term work. Must have CSCS card Call 07584 121749.

EXPERIENCED PLUMBERS req. Local new-build and refurb work. Direct or Sub contract Day work and Pricework available. Please Contact Lee 07917 867095.

cleaners

CLEANER/JANITOR required for weekend work 16-20 hours per week Driving Licence essential email info@pillatonpools.co.uk or tel 01785 715177

full time - general

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NON EMERGENCY PATIENT DRIVERS / ATTENDANTS to work as part of a two person crew transporting sick, injured or convalescence patients to and from hospitals.
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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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92,000 miles.
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Very clean inside and out.
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Bargain £550 ono.

07883 107801.

FORD KA STUDIO

2007, 1.3, 3 door, 89,000 Miles, black, long MOT, new clutch, new brakes, new tyres, 2 lady owners from new, ideal first car
£825
01922 414563.

FORD MONDEO

02 reg, 2.0 petrol automatic, full MoT,
numerous things done on car, including inlet manifold (common fault) rear sub frame and brake pipes beneath, rear callipers and wheel bearings, front suspension arms, hand break cable, plus more.
blue, same owner from last 10 years, well looked after.
£600.
07533 497669.

BARGAIN
RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
2003, red,
104,772 miles, petrol,
5 months MoT, 3-dr,
good condition.
£450.
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ROVER 25

Spares or repair, 2004, 100,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT.
£300 ono.
07818 830279.

BARGAIN
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M Reg., 4dr,
petrol, dark grey,
low mileage.
No MoT,
£200. o.n.o.
01922 744662.

BARGAIN
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2005. 3dr hatchback.
Silver.
10 months MoT.
Service history.
£775.
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commercial vehicles

LOOK
FORD TRANSIT
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motorbikes

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

CHRISTINA ANNE HIGGINSON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of St Johns Road Cannock Staffordshire WS11 0AL, who died on 14/11/2016 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/09/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GARDNER ILIFF & DOWDING
14-16 Wolverhampton Road Cannock
Staffordshire WS11 1AN T505094

ELIZABETH PAULINE DELANEY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 84 Pebble Mill Drive Cannock WS11 6UR, who died on 10/05/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/09/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WILSONS SOLICITORS LLP
Alexandra House St Johns Street
Salisbury SP1 2SB T505192

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

European Textile Recycling Ltd of Unit 5, Hollies Business Park, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1DW is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra NIL vehicles and FOUR trailers at the operating centre at 5 Hollies Business Park, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1DW.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: June 29, 2017

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
CHURCH STREET, RUGELEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 27th June 2017 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Church Street in Rugeley between its junctions with Lion Street and Fortescue Lane unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Wolseley Road, B5013 Anson Street, B5013 Elmore Lane, Crossley Stone, Sheep Fair. Travelling from the other direction, via Lions Street, Crossley Stone, B5013 Elmore Lane, B5013 Anson Street and Wolseley Road. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=159686

The order will come into operation on 3rd July 2017 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 7th July 2017.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the gas connection works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change, No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 32985, Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000 www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org

Date: 29th June 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cannock Chase COUNCIL

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS

Case Officer – S Williams
CH/17/255 - Land at Power Station Road, Rugeley, WS151LX
Proposal: Erection of single storey transport workshop with associated parking area

All applications may be inspected electronically at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected by paper file at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the PlanningErection of 2 No. distribution warehouses with associated offices, car parking and landscaping (B1, B2 & B8 uses) Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 20/07/2017 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

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JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

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EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

KAZ blue eyed bubbly female 38, full of life, OHAC, employed, looking for nice N/S responsible middle aged male for fun times, nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427607**

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SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

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CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

MATURE lady, slim and youthful, divorcee, loves laughter, life and everything. WLTM gent for continued fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427655**

EMILY, kind caring lady, recently widowed and lonely. I am 57yrs old and hoping to chat with a nice chap 60+. Please text me. **Text Only. Mailbox 4164240**

CATHY, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427653**

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TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

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MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427493**

CHRISTINE, young looking 43yrs, kind with lovely blue eyes. Genuine, loving. WLTM gent with GSOH, must be older than me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427491**

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MALE 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845**

GENUINE male, 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

JIM, 5ft9, N/S, retired, enjoys holidays abroad and at home, weekends away, days out, meals out, looking to meet a female who enjoys similar interests, for long lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427305**

HELLO! A friend with benefits, that's how I would describe myself. Mature Birmingham male, would like to be exactly that to an attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427327**

MALE, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, been hurt in the past, looking for someone special, 30-42, ACA, single mums are welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427135**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE 40 looking for sexy adventurous lady for some mad Summer time partying at my barn conversion with hot tub and countryside. **Text only. Mailbox: 5850530**

GEOFF 46, 5ft 10in, slim build, brown hair, blue eyes, N/S, honest, caring, likes cinema, walking, looking for female, 35-52, for relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4172607**

MALE 73, GSOH, looking for a lady any age. I like driving, days out, country walks and possible holidays. **Text only. Mailbox: 5847956**

PHIL, 60, 5ft10, slim build, from Wolvs, OHOC, looking for a female, 18-55, for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427121**

MALE, 60, looking for a lady, 49-60, to take on my bike/car for days out/meals, to strike up a friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5838916**

STU, 42, medium build, 6ft, WLTM a woman, 25-45, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426877**

STUART ex PE Teacher looking for lady to share good times with. Have GSOH, love days out and weekends away, eating out, walking, shopping. **Text only. Mailbox: 5833328**

MALE, 50s, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5831443**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

YOUNG 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSOH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621**

MALE N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

EASYGOING male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

SINGLE male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, trips, WLTM lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927**

YOUNG 59 male, separated, looking for lady aged 45 to 60 for adult fun and maybe relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5863873**

Single Men

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

ANDY 58, single, self-employed, fit, WLTM attractive fashionable lady, non-smoker, who likes to keep in shape, for friendship. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5503219**

MALE, 57, medium build, WLTM a lady 50-60 to put a smile back on my face, would like to take out fishing, or on my bike. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5838916**

MARK, 25yrs, 6ft6in, tall, good slim body with my own place. Seeks older lady who is still up for it. Txt me. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5979541**

MALE, 52 and single, looking for a female, 34+, looking for love and a relationship and more. Likes cuddles and kisses. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5992418**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

STEVE, 55, WLTM a lady for fun on a regular or occasional basis. If you are interested please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427567**

GENUINE male, young 57, medium build, single, kind, caring, good heart, GSOH, seeks attractive lady 35-55 for fun & friendship, possible LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

JOHN very young 69, seeking mature discreet lady, 40 to 70, for discreet fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5846609**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

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GAY feminine female with GSOH WLTM gay feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5631357**

BI male, living in the Wolverhampton area, seeking bi or gay or cross dresser who can accommodate, for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427531**

GAY guy 40, into music, cars, going out on my pit bike, having a laugh, got my own place WLTM slim guy, 18-26. **Text only. Mailbox: 5537633**

GAY man 65, seeks male to give me a massage. **Text only Mailbox: 5537379**

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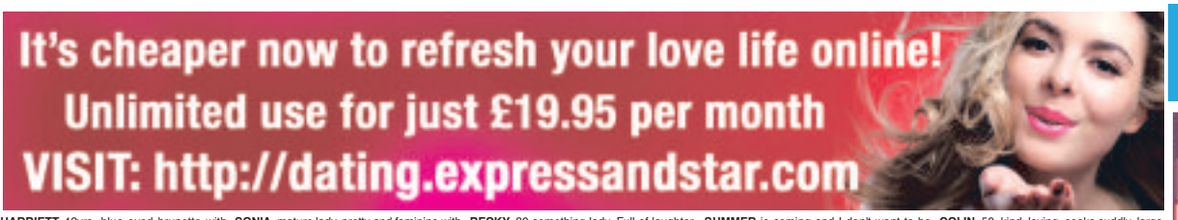

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First 3 txts free. All messages received thereafter £1.50. You may receive up to 4 messages for each message you send. Text STOP to 63222 to exit at any time. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. Service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by real users. No meetings guaranteed. If arranging a meeting choose a public space & do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 7207130 email: ohdear@nogoats.com

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

ATTRACTIVE Irish lady, 34yrs seek gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427637**

HELLO I am a black lady, 60yrs young with a great personality and lovely looks. Call if you are looking to meet someone like me, or text me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427585**

DEBBIE, young looking 49yrs, pretty brunette lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427611**

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427649**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

LINDA a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427487**

SALLY 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461**

JANE, mature blonde lady, loves jokes, countryside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427473**

BROWN eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male, 67-74, for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5877942**

LADY, early 70s, single, softly rounded, loving, lively, educated, long red hair, artist, seeks tall, tender male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427399**

CAROL, brown eyes, brown hair, 5ft3, full time care assistant, own place, likes gardening, TV, WLTM somebody similar who has a car to take me for days out and meals out, hopefully leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427383**

SALLY 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461**

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427421**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275**

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Wednesfield up – but say sorry over leak

WEDNESFIELD have secured promotion to the West Midlands Premier Division after winning their FA appeal. However, the club has apologised over the disclosure of confidential documents during the hearing.

Members of the club's hierarchy travelled to Wembley to appeal against the decision to refuse them promotion to the league's top tier.

Dean Gill's side finished as runners-up in Division One. But following inspection on their Cottage Ground earlier in the season, the club were denied promotion.

After lodging an appeal and meeting FA chiefs at the headquarters in London, the governing body agreed to send down independent inspectors to the Cottage Ground. The inspector was sent to determine whether the stadium meets Premier Division requirements.

But after accidentally releasing confidential documents during the hearing, the club has issued an apology.

"During our appeal Wednesfield disclosed information about the hearing," a statement said.

"This information was private and confidential. We would therefore like to apologise to the FA and the WMRL for this error."

Canoeing club makes waves at competition

A CANOEING club made a splash at the National and Open Master Sprint Championship Regatta, with a number of successes.

Gailey Canoe Club won four golds, two silvers and one bronze in the competition at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham.

Bruce Blackman and Paul Brookes claimed silver in the K2, or two person kayak, 200m and 1000m sprints. They posted times of 45.37 seconds and four minutes, nine seconds – despite receiving a penalty point. That was followed by a bronze in the 500m, finishing with in 1:58.

Success followed in the under-12s lightning category, with Haydn Cooke-Bayley being part of three winning teams. He won gold in the K1, or one person kayak, and triumphed in the K2 with Lewis Andrews, from Leamington Spa.

Cooke-Bayley also won the K4, or four person kayak, category alongside club members Molly Cooke, Madison Cooke and Andrews.

In the women's races, Chelsea Brookes struck gold in the K2 200m with Kate Gritsinina from Southampton – the first time they had paddled together. Club secretary Louise Clive said: "We are delighted that the hard work of our members has paid off."

Football club's brace of community awards

WYRLEY Juniors FC has secured a double success. The club was awarded the Staffordshire FA Community Club of the Year – and secured the same accolade for the north west region, which covers Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire counties as well as Staffordshire.

The awards were presented at the FA awards at Stoke City's Bet365 Stadium. They recognise the club's efforts in increasing participation and providing wellbeing sessions. Wyrley's teams have grown in two years from 48 to 65, and will rise to 70 next season.

Wyrley Juniors runs two soccer schools, has become a sister club to Birmingham City Ladies and holds mash-up sessions for girls at a local high school. It assisted UEFA in a girls' motivation study and it is actively involved in the new county female coaching group.

In the community it organises coffee mornings, donates Christmas presents to Birmingham Children's Hospital, distributes items to foodbanks and raises £1,000 a year for the Royal British Legion via its stick-on poppy appeal. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact chairman Keith Hardy on 07836 202764.

Hartson enjoys a charity golf day with Stiliyan Petrov and Jon Whitney

Hartson talks candidly about his battle with cancer

Hartson's giving back after battle from brink

FORMER Albion striker John Hartson took no prisoners as a centre forward and doesn't pull any punches when he talks about the day he was told he had cancer.

"I thought I was going to die," he says candidly.

It was back in 2009 that the former Arsenal, Celtic and Wales striker had his worst fears confirmed.

He opened up about his diagnosis and also how it affected his time at The Hawthorns.

Now doing everything he can to raise awareness of testicular cancer through the John Hartson Foundation – there is a reason why the former striker spends most of his time doing charity work.

"I had a lump on my testicles for around four years before I went to see a doctor," the now 42-year-old said. "I know a lot of men are like that. You ignore it. You hope it's going to go away. I was boyish, I wasn't mature enough to face it.

"But that is what I want to change. My testicular cancer had spread to my lungs and brain. When I found out, I sat in my car and I cried.

Waste

"I thought that was it. I wasn't told I had a cold or something. It was cancer and cancer takes good people away from us. I was heartbroken. I was 32 years old and I thought, 'I can't dodge this bullet'."

Hartson's cancer was at such an advanced stage there was no time to waste. Within days he was undergoing brain surgery. He then stopped breathing after contracting pneumonia.

For a month, hospital staff primarily worked to keep him alive rather than treat the cancer.

For Hartson himself, that time is now something of a blur – but he says he cannot forget the impact it had on his family.

"Cancer turns everybody's world upside down," he continued. "It was horrific. Your family members and your close friends actually feel it more than you, the patient.

"The patient is wired up to a machine. You are normally very heavily sedated. But it's your mum and dad, your brother, your sister, your kids – they are taking it home. They are living with it 24/7. My family were asking 'Is John going to live or die today? He has got a big operation tomorrow, a brain operation – is he going to survive?'" Survive he did. Seven operations – including two on his brain – together with 65 sessions of chemotherapy saw the Swansea-born star defy the odds.

And now he's doing everything he can to make sure more men examine themselves and visit a doctor at the first sign of trouble.

Following his return to health, he launched the John Hartson Foundation to raise awareness of testicular cancer. In typically bullish Hartson fashion, the charity runs with the slogan 'Grab Life by the Balls' and has already raised more than £700,000 to help men diagnosed with the disease.

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back," Hartson said. "I set up the charity in 2010 and we have had fantastic support. I am very proud of the money we have raised. But it's more about the awareness."

In a glittering playing career Hartson won 51 caps for Wales and scored more than 100 goals for Celtic.

It was while a youngster at Luton that he first rose to prominence – with his impressive performances persuading Arsenal to make him the most expensive teenager in British football history.

"That was huge," Hartson recalled. "I was the most expensive teenager in British football history. They paid £2.5million for me. George Graham signed me and I'll never forget travelling to Highbury in David Pleat's car.

"I didn't have an agent at the time and David Pleat's phone was ringing every five minutes and he just kept pressing the cancel button because he didn't want to give the move away. I went from £275 a week at Luton to something like £4,000 a week at Arsenal. But that didn't matter. I knew I would make money in my career if I realised my potential. For me it was all about the opportunity and playing for such a fantastic football club."

Following his time with the Gunners, Hartson moved to West Ham and still holds the record of being the last player to score 20 Premier League goals in a season for the Hammers.

That prompted Wimbledon to pay £7.5million for his services in 1999 before he then enjoyed huge success at Celtic. But despite an outstanding career, Hartson admits he wished he performed better in his time as an Albion player.

"I loved it at West Brom and it all started so great for me," he said. "Bryan Robson signed me and Kevin Phillips on the same day. I came from Celtic and had several chats with Bryan over the summer.

"I had Zoltan Gera on one side and Jonathan Greening on the other side. Bryan said you'll get great delivery. It started really well but I do genuinely believe that I was carrying cancer at the time.

"Bryan then lost his job after seven games. Tony Mowbray came in and I knew all about him because I had played against his Hibs when I was at Celtic.

Problems

"The truth is I let Tony down because I wasn't the player he saw at Celtic. I was going through a divorce, I was having a few personal problems.

"But the West Brom fans and everyone at the club were fantastic to me.

"I look back now and West Brom was probably the only club, and I played for eight clubs, where the fans did not see the best of me.

"I had a wonderful career and worked with some seriously talented players and managers. But at Albion it didn't go as well as I would have liked.

"It's shame I couldn't excel there and be the player I was previously because I loved being a Baggie."

Hartson is now enjoying life working with his charity and also in the media.

"Things are going great for me now – I really feel blessed," he added.

"I love working in the media. I try to be honest, articulate and thoughtful with my answers.

"I have got five kids, a beautiful wife and I live in Edinburgh. I'm just so grateful to be here, it's amazing to think where I am now to where I was on that day I got my diagnosis."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back. We have had fantastic support."

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Sport

Big John pulls no punches on battle back from brink

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Firsts miss out in top of table clash

Cannock 180) lost to Pelsall (245-7) by 65 runs

CANNOCK lost by 65 runs in this top of the table Staffs Clubs Premier clash.

Pelsall won the toss and chose to bat first and an unbeaten 115 from Todd Henderson helped the visitors reach 245-7 from their 50 overs, Dan Wood taking 4-46 and Matt Robinson 2-28.

The regular fall of wickets kept Cannock's reply in check with only an Ed Martin half century giving the final score a touch of respectability. Only Martin and number 11 Matt Robinson (24no) were able to go past 20.

Cannock 2nds (203-6) beat Pelsall 2nds (200-9) by four wickets

AFTER a recent poor run of form Cannock returned to winning ways when they visited Pelsall. Pelsall batted first, posting a total of 200- 9 with Phil Heighway taking 3-26. Jack Portsmouth top scored for Pelsall with 46no.

In reply runs for Mike Chadderton (48), Matt Davenport (48no) and Paul Greenfield (39) saw Cannock home with four wickets to spare

Cannock 3rds (225-7) drew with Beacon 3rds (142-8)

CANNOCK travelled to high flying Beacon and came away with 16 points and the winning draw. Batting first Cannock scored 225-7 with Cam Osborne (41) and Ant Wood (39no) top scoring.

Cannock restricted Beacon to 105-8 with 12 overs to go they were unable to take the final two wickets to complete the victory. Matt Bull claimed 4-20 and Ryan Pearce 3-32.

Cannock 4ths (209-9) beat Himley 4ths (102) by 107 runs

A Kev Pearce half-century and 46 from Jamie Fleet helped Cannock to 209.

They were well backed up in the field with 14-year-old Harry Tooth taking 3-20 and Aaron Wilkes 3-3 as Himley were dismissed for just 102.

St Matthew's run up short as ton by skipper to no avail

BURNTWOOD St Matthew's captain Eden Wilkinson struck a century against Springhill but his side's hopes were ended by a devastating bowling spell.

Wilkinson scored 117 out of 181 in the Staffs Clubs League, thanks to a return of 7-40 from Jabbar Hussain. An unbroken partnership between Andrew Roche (46 not out) and Dave Taylor (52 not out) saw Springhill home by six wickets.

Another ton-up batsman was Andy Malkin of Hammerwich, who hit 109 of his side's 298-7 against Rugeley, Jake Aston the pick of the bowlers with 3-38.

Rugeley in reply fell 34 runs short, bowled out for 264, in spite of half centuries from Ali Fawcett (69) and Paul McHale (62). Hammerwich bowler Patrick Knott claimed 5-28 off 6.3 overs.

A captain's knock of 121 from Waqar Ahmed helped Swindon to 316-9 and a 30-run win over Whittington (286) for whom Sam Leech (88) top-scored. Ahmed followed up with the ball, taking 4-25 off 26 balls.

Adam Baker's haul of 7-34 reduced Armitage to 118, and Bloxwich seconds knocked off the runs with five down.

New kit just the ticket for players

Football

Wyrley Juniors players in their new kit

A FOOTBALL team is hoping its smart new kit will be just the ticket for greater success next season after winning sponsorship from bus company Arriva Midlands.

Wyrley Juniors are delighted by the support from the company, based in Delta Way, Cannock, and say their players get a real kick out of the new strip.

Team manager Matt Love said: "Our appreciation is massive. For someone like Arriva to come in and support us with £1,400 is great – getting a new kit is a big expense and some clubs can fold over it because they can't afford to update it. The lads love the kit – when they arrived they started using it straight away."

Matt added: "We've got high hopes and this sponsorship is a real boost for us."

Arriva Midlands North area managing director Rob Cheveaux said: "At Arriva we like to feel we are an important part of the community, with people depending on us to get them where they need to be so they can live their lives. Wyrley Juniors is a great community football team and we are happy to help."

PARSONS CUES UP BIG CHANCE

TALENTED snooker ace Riley Parsons is heading to the Far East as he continues to chase his dream of joining the professional ranks.

Parsons, from Cannock, has pocketed a shot at the world's elite youngsters after being selected for the second year running to represent England in the under-18 World Championships.

After reaching the last 16 in Belgium in the same competition last year, Parsons admitted he was a little daunted once he discovered this year's showpiece is being staged in Beijing next month.

But after relaying the selection news to Cannock Conservatives Snooker Club, the 17-year-old was left full of gratitude for the act of kindness that followed.

The club's committee, including secretary Colin Hopton, dug deep to contribute £500 towards the youngster's travel costs after original worries that the self-funded trip may prove too expensive.

"I'm just buzzing. I was so pleased when I found out," said the former Cannock Chase High School student.

Worried

"It's such a prestigious event. When I'd found out where it was and the prices I was like 'oh my God' – I was worried and thinking it'd cost a lot of money, especially if my mum and dad had to come along too.

"I just want to say thank you to the club for giving me the opportunity. They've allowed me to have the chance.

"They've really encouraged me since I joined the club a year ago. I know I'm not just representing myself, but also the club."

Parsons, who has rolled in a 147 against teammate Jack Harris in practice, has recently finished his first season with the Cannock Cons club, whom he represents in the West Midlands League Division One.

He joined the league's ton-up club after notching his first league century when he rolled in a superb 104 during a Foursomes match with Harris against Jamie Spence and Dan Petch at Baggeridge Social in February. He also features for Golden Cue Club in the Aldridge Snooker League and has represented England twice in amateur internationals.

Rising Snooker star Riley Parsons, aged 17 from Cannock

After finishing school last summer, the dream for the Cannock potter is to one day make it a professional. And a second year at the world's top competition for his age category puts Parsons in good stead.

He exited at the last 16 stage last year to prodigious Welsh star Tyler Rees but had already caught the eye, winning three of his four group stage matches and taking the last 32 tie 4-2 against Harris. Parsons, who won this year's West Midlands Under-21s tournament, in his debut season with Cons, believes he is in a better place to succeed this time around.

"When I went to Belgium last year I was a bit of a rabbit in the headlights," admitted Parsons, who also practises with Walsall professional Mark Joyce. "Now I know what to expect, I want to do better. If you win the whole thing you get an automatic place in the qualifiers of the World Championships at the Crucible.

"There's also £2,000 prize money. I really want to try and do well. The dream is to make it as a professional. It's what I've wanted to do ever since I played pool with my dad when I was five."

Physio ends role with the Pitmen

PHYSIO Gavin Blackwell has left Hednesford Town after eight years at the club. During his time at Keys Park he has been involved in more than 400 games.

The club said Blackwell had not only contributed to matters on the football field. He has helped with many facets around Keys Park and in the local community – becoming a popular figure among supporters, staff and players alike.

He said: "I'd like to thank everyone involved with Hednesford Town Football Club for being so welcoming and supportive during my time with the club which first began eight years ago.

"I leave with a heavy heart but feel the time is right to move on. I'd like to wish everyone all the best for the future."

Meanwhile, the Pitmen's first pre-season game against Boldmere St Michaels will kick-off at 7.30pm.

Chasetown boss Scott Dundas has bolstered his ranks ahead of the new season with the additions of central defender Spencer Gunnell, striker Jake Lovatt and midfielder Chris Baker. The Scholars have also secured the services of Curtis Pond for another season.

Dundas said he had fought off stiff competition to complete the signing of Gunnell, while of Lovatt, Dundas said: "Jake is a natural goalscorer with power and pace. Jake has scored over 100 goals at step 5 level for his previous club and is now looking to hit the net for the Scholars on a regular basis."

Baker has played for Dundas at previous clubs and scored against the Scholars last season.

Heath Hayes, who dispensed with the services of Jamie Hawkins as manager at the end of last season, have replaced him with Craig Brotherton. John Deans has resigned his position as chairman.

Football team on the hunt for new players

A RUGELEY football team is looking for new players for the forthcoming campaign and is holding a trials session next Saturday, July 1.

Brereton Town Ravens u-14s, who play in the Walsall Junior Football League, are recruiting players in school Year 9 from September (experienced year 8 players may also be considered).

The trials session takes place from noon to 3pm at Brereton Town FC, Ravenhill Park, Main Road, Brereton. Regular training takes place on Tuesdays, from 6-7pm and Saturdays, from 11-12.30pm.

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